

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

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⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the Spirit that He has made to dwell in us?" —James 4:1-5 ESV

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The impulse of fallen humanity undermines the intent of a biblical community.

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Are You Harboring
a Destructive Attitude?

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"A person not at peace with himself can surely not be at peace with his associates." —Vernon Doerksen

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You desire
epithumia (burn within)
You murder
nurture a killer instinct (Matt. 5:21-22)
You covet
"Every crime in this world has come from a desire which was first only a feeling in the heart, but which being nourished long enough came in the end to action" —Wm. Barclay
You fight and quarrel

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PASSIONS

Gk. = *hedone* (“Hedonism”)

“...enjoyment derived from the fulfillment of one’s desire or the craving for pleasure itself—gratification.” —Life My Way

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“The New Testament is clear that this overmastering desire for the pleasures of this world is always a threatening danger to the spiritual life... The ultimate choice in life lies between pleasing oneself and pleasing God; and a world in which men’s first aim is to please themselves is a world in which there is a battleground of savagery and division.” —William Barclay

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Are You Housing
a Divided Allegiance?

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¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

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²⁴No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

—Matthew 6:19-21, 24 ESV

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God will never accept less
than total allegiance.

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Christian Hedonist: "God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him." —John Piper

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"The most miserable man in the world is not an unsaved man. The most miserable man in the world is a child of God out of fellowship with God."

—Adrian Rogers

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Are You Hiding
Devious Ambitions?


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 Prayer is not a formula to get our will on earth, but an altar of faith to embrace God's will *on earth as it is in heaven.*

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Matthew 6:7-13

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 You can never expect God to bless your schemes.

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⁷Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?

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¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
—Matthew 7:7-11 ESV

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Are You Having
a Deceitful Affair?

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James 4:4-5

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Adultery

Isaiah 1:21
Jeremiah 3:20
Hosea 1-3

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Exodus 20:5 | Exodus 34:14

“God is infinitely jealous for His people and He will oppose with divine force anything or anybody who threatens their good. God is jealous for the affections of your heart as a follower of Christ.”

—David Platt

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Collision of World Views

God is the origin and center of all of life. **VS** Man is the focus and center of all things.

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“The world is human nature sacrificing the spiritual to the material, the future to the present, the unseen and the eternal to that which touches the senses and perishes in time.”

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“The world is a mighty flood of thoughts, feelings, principles of action, conventional prejudices, dislikes, attachments, which have been gathering around human life for ages, impregnating it, impelling it, molding it, degrading it.”

—Richard Wolff

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Our friendship with this world causes us to “unfriend” our relationship with God.

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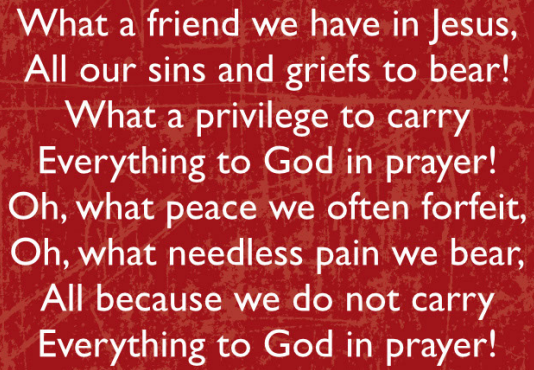
“Obedience to the will of God draws men together, for it is the will of God that men should love and serve one another; obedience to the craving for pleasure drives men apart, for pleasure drives men to an internecine rivalry and competition and warfare for the same things.”

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“To obey the will of God is to be essentially selfless; to serve the will of pleasure is to be essentially selfish.”

—William Barclay

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What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

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Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
—Joseph M. Scriven

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