

SOUL ON FIRE

SPIRITUAL ADULTERY

James 4:1-10

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What is the cause/cure for the grave sin of spiritual adultery?

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:1-4

1. Spiritual adultery is making friends with the world.

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

A. The world is anti-God.

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 1 John 5:19

B. Beware of desiring the things of the world.

And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land. Then Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me: if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD. Genesis 13:7-13

C. Beware of thinking you can serve God and the world.

Do you think the Scriptures mean nothing? The Scriptures say, "The Spirit God made to live in us wants us only for himself." James 4:5 ERV

"Those outside the church expect followers of Christ to live differently. Yet today many in the church are chasing after the world – not to win them, but to be like them." Billy Graham

Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? ... Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. 2 Corinthians 6:15-17

D. Beware of thinking you can get away with it.

2. Spiritual adultery requires spiritual reconciliation.

"Unfaithful Israel, come back to me. I am merciful and will not be angry; I will not be angry with you forever. Only admit that you are guilty and that you have rebelled against the LORD, your God. Confess that under every green tree you have given your love to foreign gods and that you have not obeyed my commands. I, the LORD, have spoken. Unfaithful people, come back; you belong to me." Jeremiah 3:12-13 GNB

A. The first step is to come to your senses.

Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. James 4:9

B. The second step is to humble yourself before God.

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." James 4:6

For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:16-17

C. The third step is to submit yourself to God.

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7

D. The fourth step is to draw near to God and be made clean.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8

It is not too late for you to get right with God.