

What We Kill For

★ Who Do You Blame When Your Kid is a Brat?

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.” -James 4:1-2a

James is preaching a sermon based on the O.T. to believers. He is interpreting the Bible for his listeners. I’m finna do the same thing.

Coveting is wanting something you don’t got. What do we covet/desire?

- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Try it out:

- 1. What causes problems between countries? One side wants something that the other side wont give them.
2. What causes arguments between spouses? Who decides what to spend money on, who does what with whom and how much, how to discipline.
3. What causes quarrels between children? Not sharing, wanting what the other has.

The world tells you that everything is about \_\_\_\_\_. So when someone says something different we fight for our “rights.”

We focus on getting what we don’t have. We focus on \_\_\_\_\_. What’s the result?

We spend on a big TV with all the channels, a prestigious home, a new ride, and eat out regularly. Meanwhile:

- \_\_\_\_\_ children die every day due to poverty.
-Nearly 50% of all children in the world live in poverty.
- \_\_\_\_ of Church budgets is for local/national benevolence
-The average Christian gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the church

We want to get that promotion, make a bigger salary, earn the respect of our coworkers.

Meanwhile:

- Adult marriage percent has fallen from 72% (60) to \_\_\_\_\_(11)
-Divorce in first marriages has a 40-50% fail probability (all in)
-We use 33% less vacation days a year (00-13)

We want to finish school, don’t want the added expenses or responsibilities, and don’t want a long term commitment. Meanwhile:

- \_\_\_\_\_ million babies have been killed since 1973 in the U.S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Gen X have been killed through abortion

The fact is that we kill for our desires. We kill marriages, friendships, families, babies, futures.

“[False Teachers]...think that godliness is a means to financial gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” - 1 Tim 6:5b-8

## ★ Thank God for Unanswered Prayers

*You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. – James 4:2b-3*

Is it any wonder that God would say no with people like us asking for stuff? (cf: p.1, your mirror.)

The same chapter where Jesus deals with giving, praying, fasting and looking towards Heaven, He tells us: *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* -Matthew 6:33

Reconcile: God will say yes when our desires \_\_\_\_\_ with his goals. When we desire God and His kingdom we don't have to worry about clothes, food, housing. And we will no longer worry about bills, money, or spend on other selfish desires.

Ask for God and you get \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Seek selfishness and you get no and no.

There is no magic workaround.

## ★ The One That I Want, Oo, Oo, Oo, Honey

*“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”* –James 4:4-5

Choosing to do something for our self instead / in spite of God is the definition of Idolatry and worldliness: *putting anything else (like ourselves) above God.*

We have to decide what we want more:

1. World: Trying to keep up with the Jones'
2. God: Seeking Him and His kingdom

## ★ I Pray for the Rain to Come...to Drown the Sin in Me

*“**Submit yourselves**, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **Come near** to God and he will come near to you. **Wash your hands**, you sinners, and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. **Grieve, mourn and wail**. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”* –James 4:7-10

I'm assuming that you chose #2 above. If that's the case, there is really only one option: Recognizing your sin, you should fall on your sinful face, grieve, mourn, cry, and repent.

Yes and Amen is for after forgiveness. Not for during sinfulness. Yes comes with relationship. Our response should be to get right with God. Our desire should be for God.

*“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.”* –James 4:17