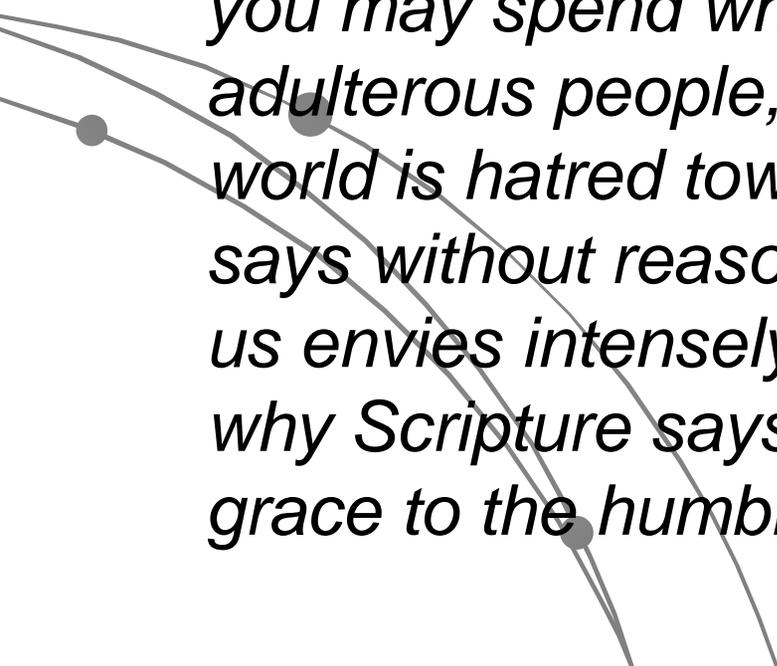


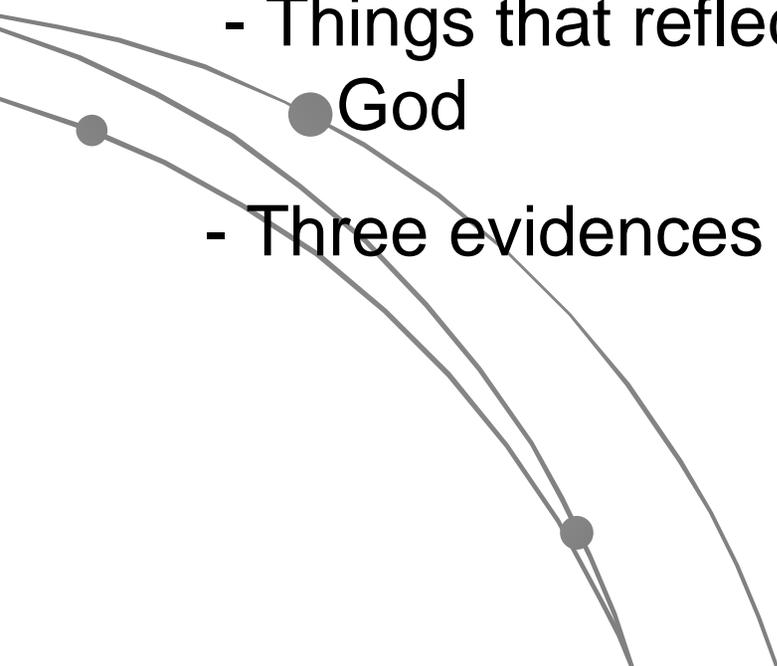
Reflecting the Master

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. 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. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused us to live in us envies intensely? But he gives more grace. That is why Scripture says:” “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:1-9



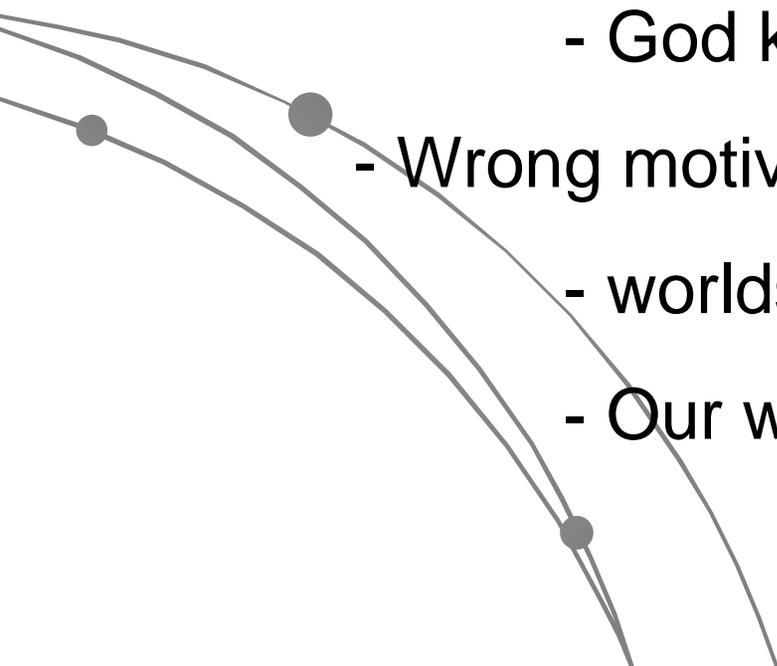
Reflections of the Master

James – Moving People to Maturity

- Concern about our testimony
 - Things that reflect immaturity – unwise and harmful
 - Things that reflect maturity – bring blessing, reflect
● God
 - Three evidences of immaturity to avoid
- 
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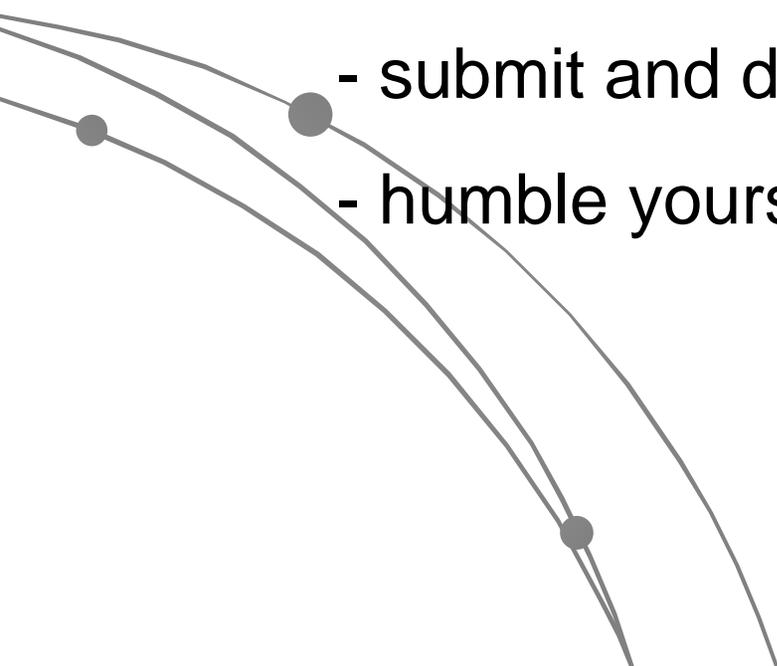
Reflecting the Master

1. Spirit of Conflict

- interpersonal conflicts exist – how they are handled matters vs.1-2
 - conflicts in world and church
 - Motives in asking of God matter (Num. 11:4-6)
 - God knows the heart
 - Wrong motives come from wrong desires (4)
 - worlds desires become ours
 - Our will seems clear, God's seems fuzzy
- 

Reflecting the Master

God's Desires for Us

- Matt. 6:10-20, 1 John 2:15,16; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; James 2:2-4
 - belong exclusively to him
 - maintain a humble heart
 - submit and draw near, resist and cleanse
 - humble yourself – let God lift you up
- 
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Reflecting the Master

2. Spirit of Judgment

“Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?”

James 4:11-12

- judgmental spirit always leads to conflict. Matt.7:1-4
- Our position to submit – Gods position to judge
- Judgment divides – Phil. 2:3-4

Reflecting the Master

3. Boastful Spirit vs.13-17

“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lords will, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who know the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”

- Our plans must reflect the heart of God
- God is the one who enables our efforts

Reflecting the Master

4. A Humble Spirit – Maturity that Reflects Christ

“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

- Submit to God – obedience
- Resist Satan – oppose, stand against
- Draw Near to God – seek, time investment

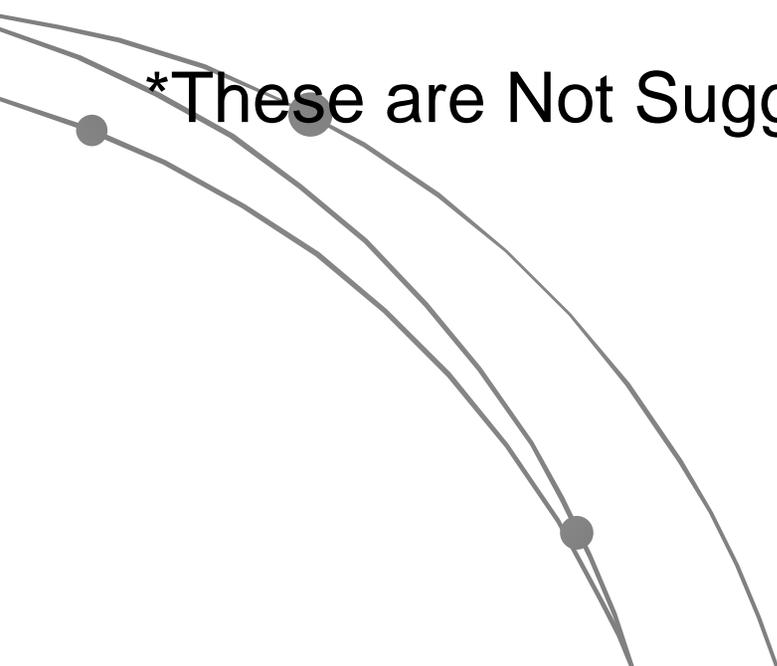
Reflections of the Master

- Clean Vessel – purge the sin
- Sadness of our sinful condition – Isaiah 6:5
- Humble Spirit – inward bowing towards God

*The Cure for Conflict – a humble spirit *

Motive Matters – God hears the heart

These are Not Suggestions – Imperatives or Commands

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Reflections of the Master

So What

Three Evidences of Immaturity in the Believer

1. Spirit of Conflict – I have a desire
2. Spirit of Judgment – I see in you
3. Spirit of Boasting – I have done, will do

Evidence of Maturity in the Believer

* Humble Spirit – in full harmony and submission to the Father*