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## SERMON NOTES July 19, 2020

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

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### James 4:4-10 God's Passionate Love Pastor Mike

- I. The metaphor of our \_\_\_\_\_ to God
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ with God  
*Our relationship with God is one of \_\_\_\_\_*
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ against God
- a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin is \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin is \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin is \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. God's \_\_\_\_\_ to our sin
- a. He pursues us as a \_\_\_\_\_ not as an \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He \_\_\_\_\_ over us with \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. He gives us \_\_\_\_\_
- V. Steps to \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace
- a. We must start with an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ to God's \_\_\_\_\_ for your life
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ the devil; give up \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Pursue a \_\_\_\_\_ with God
  - e. Let God change your \_\_\_\_\_ about sinful \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Let God \_\_\_\_\_ you by believing his \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. The Bible uses numerous different metaphors to describe the nature of his relationship with his people, including that of a king to his subjects, and a shepherd and his sheep. However, one of the most common throughout the Bible is the metaphor that God relates to us as a husband relating to his wife. What do you think God is trying to teach us through this metaphor? In what ways do you see God's relationship with us as being like a husband's relationship with a wife?
2. Some of the passages that use the metaphor of our relationship with God being like those of a husband and wife describe the relationship in sexual terms, speaking of passion and desire. For example, Ezekiel 16 employs candid sexual images of arousal and intercourse.
  - a. Is it surprising and/or uncomfortable to see God speak not only in general terms of marriage, but in the specific terms of physical passion and desire?
  - b. If you think of your relationship with God in terms of a marriage, including the desire and pleasure of a passionate relationship, how does this impact your view of God's relationship with you, and your relationship with God?
  - c. In practical terms, how might this change your behavior? How might the image of marriage change our motivation for obeying God?
3. James 4:4 uses very direct and politically incorrect language. Speaking to people within the church, he says, *"You 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."*
  - a. How are we adulterous in our behavior towards God? How do we make ourselves an enemy of God?
  - b. How can we know if we are guilty in a way that fits this description?
4. Building on this imagery of marriage, God describes himself as a "jealous God." James 4:5 tells us that, *"He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"*? How should we understand God's jealousy in relation to us?
5. Many contemporary Christian writers have commented on how modern Christians often view nominal Christian commitment as normal and total commitment to Christ as an extreme exception. If we are to take this picture of marriage seriously, what level of commitment does God see as the normal?
  - a. Can you think of "harmless flirtations" with sin that we might accept but that we should see as offensive to God?
  - b. It has been said that our deepest loves and passions are revealed by what we think about during our free moments through the day; our minds are drawn to our passions. Do you agree that the evaluation of our thoughts is a good way to evaluate our hearts?
  - c. What does this evaluation reveal about your heart?