

## SHARING

James 4:4 ... "...Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Good parents teach their children to share. Although sharing is a Biblical principle and was taught or demonstrated by Jesus, God the Father does not necessarily practice sharing himself. For example, God will not share you with satan, even though satan is very willing to share you with God. If you are undecided with regard to living for and serving God – if you have one toe in the world and one toe in the church – you are in satan's happy zone. But God is out of the picture because he insists that your devotion to him be all or nothing; he will not share you with the world or with satan. Satan, however, is thrilled that you are struggling to decide between him and God because satan knows that as long as you do not fully commit to God, he has an excellent chance of making you his companion in hell.

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus said: "... love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Why will God judge and condemn to hell HIS enemies, but he instructs you to love and bless YOUR enemies? Because your purpose in life is to introduce others to Christ, which you cannot do if you refuse to speak to them, or if you curse them, or if you do harm to them. Your enemies are still redeemable. They can still repent and find their way to Jesus, while God's enemies have already committed capital crimes against God's kingdom for which there is no alternative but death.

There is only one enemy force that is common to both you and God: satan, his demons and his followers. They have taken a stand against God and, through their actions, they have already been judged and condemned to spend eternity in hell. Their sentence is irreversible. They are not eligible for parole or a pardon. Today's verse tells us that if you align yourself with that group, you will suffer their fate. But the other people in your life who you consider enemies simply because of the way they treat you, are not yet past the point of no return. Your purpose is to patiently and humbly remain connected to them so you may have a chance to exchange forgiveness and share eternity together in heaven.

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