

## Message Series: The Book of James -- Faith Really Works

### Today: Faith Really Works When Worlds Collide

Speaker: Ronnie Norman

#### **James 4:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.*

<sup>5</sup> *What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy?* <sup>6</sup> *But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."*

**Key Point:** It is impossible to be a friend of God and at the same time be a friend to the values of this world's system.

#### **1. Some Places Where Values Collide:**

- **Use of Power**

#### **James 3:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> *For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.* <sup>16</sup> *For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.*

<sup>17</sup> *But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.*

- **Business Ethics**

#### **James 3:14**

*If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.*

- **Relational Tensions**

**James 4:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> *What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you?* <sup>2</sup> *You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.* <sup>3</sup> *And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.*

- **Morality**

**Photo of Tienamin Square – kid standing down the tanks**

**2. One Fantastic Promise: God Will Come Close!**

**James 4:6-10**

*As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."*

<sup>7</sup> *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* <sup>8</sup> *Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

<sup>9</sup> *Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.* <sup>10</sup> *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.*