

May 23, 2019

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "You Were Born to Be Loved"

—The Best Life—

Text: James 4:4,5

**4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

**4:5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?**

**4:2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.**

**4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**

#### Introduction

This morning, I'd like to speak first about the recent European situation.

The European situation is getting increasingly confused. Since 2015, approximately 1,700,000 people who wanted to be recognized as a refugee flowed into Germany that accepts refugees from the most in the world. Among them, only about 24,000 refugees were sent back to their own countries.

Many refugees flowed into Germany and a confusion occurred inside the country. The German government supports food, clothing and shelter of approximately 1,700,000 people until they are recognized as refugees (about three years). The expense is covered by people's taxes. Therefore, their complaint against the government is increasing. As a result, AfD (Alternative fuer Deutschland which means Alternative for Germany), the extreme right party, has recently gained support and increased its seats.

The refugee problem has an impact on France, Italy, Greece, Spain and also the Nordic countries. A large number of refugees flowed into each country that is part of one continent. Therefore, it is quite different from the former Europe where only white people lived, but now there are people from all countries.

Meanwhile, Elections to the European Parliament took place at the end of May. The result was that the skeptics accounts for 30% of seats. They are of the extreme right and populist (mass-opportunism). The skeptics became the dominant party in France and Italy, the principal countries. In England, the Brexit party and EU-supporters violently opposed each other, and Prime Minister Theresa May was forced to resign.

England once has sent missionaries to all over the world to preach the Gospel of Christ, however its glory has faded. There are no great ancestors of faith like Hudson Taylor, George Mueller and John Wesley anymore. It is very regrettable.

We only see a sharp **confrontation** in England today. Let's move on the next topic.

My friends, many people are struggling in a relationship between friends and enemies. When God created human beings, there was not such a conflict. Originally, human beings had a relationship to love and be loved. The cause of the conflict is that they turned down God and left Him. Since then, they left love and began to live in conflict. These conflicts are now daily occurrences.

My friends, we don't always need to think the about the big conflicts like international politics. Let's think about smaller cases. We sometimes come to be in conflict individually. We, who are Christians, are not exceptions. James teaches us Christians that we should understand what our true enemies are.

Let's study the Christians' enemies and how we should live Christian lives today.

#### Main Points

### 1 . **Temptation in Our Lives**

Generally speaking, Christians have three kinds of enemies.

James records all the three enemies as below.

#### 1 ) **Three Enemies**

##### ① **The World (Cosmos)**

**4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

The word, world (cosmos), in the verse above refers to an idea and a system that turn against God. It means the human world that excludes God and denies Him. We lead our lives unintentionally in this world; however, we should remember what this world is. It is our enemy

that severely holds our faith back.

For example, they think that they just stay at home and relax on Sundays. Among such people, it is very precious deed that we go to church and attend worship in that kind of environment. This world tempts us to choose worldly pleasures and not to attend worship. The world deceitfully approaches us and tries to separate us from God. For this reason, the world is our enemy.

## ② The Devil

**4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

The devil is not a mere fable. As God is invisible, the devil is also invisible. However, it really exists. The devil is working on us and tries to corrupt us. Therefore, it is our enemy.

## ③ Sin

**4:8 Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

James called them **you sinners**. We need to make our sin clear before God or we will become **sinner**. We think what James writes such as desires, fights and quarrels have nothing to do with Christians, however, it is really written for them. We should remember the fact.

God made us perfectly free from a problem of sin through Jesus. However, the sin never gives up tempting us.

## 2) Three Characteristics of Sin

The Bible clearly writes about sin. Sin (hamatia) originally means **irrelevant** and **off the mark**. Human beings must have lived toward the object, God but they looked at things except God and loved them. It is sin and it has three characteristics.

### ① Sin Toward God

**4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

James called them, **"You adulterous people."** The Old Testament teaches that idolatry is spiritual adultery, so James called people, **"You adulterous people"**, whose primary concern was not God. (Idolatry is spiritual adultery.)

To love this world is to be a friend of the world and it means enmity against God. Specifically, those who gradually come to love things of the world more than the church, makes worldly thinking and common knowledge the most precious. They really become a friend of the world

even though they think that they trust in God and go to church.

In that case, when his friend says, “Come and join us”, he forgets that God invites him to join worship and easily falls into temptation. The Bible teaches that such an attitude is the life that is against God. This attitude is originally found in us. Therefore, we should clearly understand what it means before God. More or less, when we become Christians, we have to run into such a problem.

When the Bible refers to sin, first of all, we should be reminded of the problem of becoming an enemy of God.

## ② Sin in Our Hearts

**4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.**

There is sin in our hearts. Let's look Verse 2.

**44:2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.**

The verse above records the words **desire** and **covet**. It is not a sin itself to want something. As the Verse 1 records the word **desire**, God gives us **desire** that we need to live.

To have desire is not a sin, but when it goes too far, it becomes a problem.

We have hearts in us, even if it is invisible, it really exists. We have various ideas or thoughts in our hearts and the Bible clearly teaches that we have sin in our hearts, that God isn't pleased with.

## ② Sin that is Revealed in Deeds

And the sin is revealed in deeds.

The words **steal** and **kill** in the Verse 2 are most typical examples. They are sins as visible deeds. These deeds are results of our sins that are against God.

Then what should we do? James asks, “We trusted in Jesus and are saved by Him, even so do we still live in sin?” He suggests that we should examine our lives if we continue to lead such lives. Then how should we live? This is the second point.

## 2. The Way of Living that Loves and Is Loved in God

**4:5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit**

### he has caused to dwell in us?

My friends, the Holy Spirit abides in us. It is an amazing fact. The Holy Spirit lives in such a little one like me. The verse above teaches it to us in the first place.

Then, it teaches that God the Father jealously longs for the Spirit in us. It is not an exaggerated expression. John repeatedly taught that we are God's children. Paul called people of the Corinthian church "**the saints**". And James taught that the Spirit of God abides in them.

God does not blame for their sinful nature and deeds. On the contrary, He speaks to us with grief of deep love," You are precious beings who the Spirit lives in, but why?" My friends, although we are loved by God and the Spirit lives in us, it is very regrettable if we love the world and live sinful lives without knowing it.

**1John 2:15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.**

**Then what should we do? We should accept God's word at its face value.**

God loved us though we were sinners and He loves us more when we trust in Christ Jesus. And His love is so deep and intense that He is jealous of us.

You also are loved by God; therefore, we also intend to lead lives to love.

There is a famous praise song named "*You were born to Be Loved.*" Let's appreciate it.

You were born to be loved.

Your life is filled with love.

God's eternal love is shown

through our relationships.

Your presence gives me such a great joy.

You were born to be loved.

You're still receiving the love now.

### Conclusion

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Today, we studied in James that we are loved by God.

We are able to have relationships to love and to be loved in God.

We studied the following points.

1. Don't fall into temptation(sin) ⇒ **The Bible**
2. Accept the Word of God at its face value ⇒ **The Bible**

\* God bless you!