

the TAKE HOME 09.21.14

Scriptures: *Psalm 133:1, James 4:1-11*

1 How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You 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. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

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

⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM PRESERVING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT?

1. Am I asking God for what I want?
2. Are my motives right?
3. Am I in tune with the Spirit?
4. Am I humble and submitted to God?
5. Am I resisting the Devil?
6. Am I drawing near to God?
7. Am I speaking in favor of others?