Title: It's Complicated
Text: James 4:1-10
Target: The greatest threat to your relationship with God is what you're unwilling to surrender to Him.

I. **<u>Check</u> your Selfish Desires before God: (Vs. 1-3)**
   A. **Conflicting Passions:** *"your passions are at war within you"* (Vs. 1)
   B. **Covetous Pursuits:** *"You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel"* (Vs. 2)
   C. **Corrupted Prayers:** *"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."* (Vs. 3)

II. **<u>Choose</u> Faithfulness to God: (Vs. 4-5)**
   A. **Over Disloyal Friendship:** *"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."* (Vs. 4b)
      1. **What is Worldly Friendship?**
         - Choosing what makes you happy over what makes you holy.
         - Caring more about what people think than what God says.
         - Allowing culture to shape your convictions instead of Scripture.
         - Wanting God's blessings without submitting to God's authority.
         - Compromising your beliefs to maintain relationships.
         - Pursuing success at the expense of your spiritual integrity.
         - Finding your identity in what you have rather than who you are in Christ.
         - Justifying what God calls sin because the world calls it normal.
         - Loving the approval of people more than the approval of God.
         - Wanting to follow Jesus without giving up control of your life.
      2. **What's the Cost?** Enemies of God
         - You are living in opposition to God's Will.
         - Choosing a way of life that contradicts God's Word.
         - Resisting His authority rather than submitting to His leadership.
         - What you want determines how you live.
         - Want God's Blessing without His Direction.
         - Embrace the attitudes, priorities, and practices that oppose God's Holiness.
   B. **Over Spiritual Adultery:** *"You adulterous people!… 'Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?'"* (Vs. 4-5)
      1. **Contractual:** I will remain committed to God as long as life goes according to my plans.
      2. **Covenantal:** I will remain faithful because even when I am unfaithful, God stays faithful.

III. **<u>Crucify</u> Your Pride to God: (Vs. 6-7)**

A. **Humble Yourself:** *"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'"* (Vs. 6)
B. **Submit Yourself:** *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (Vs. 7)

IV. <u>Cleanse</u> Your Heart Before God: (Vs. 8-10)

A. **Get Near:** *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."* (Vs. 8)
    1. **Cleanse Your Hands**
    2. **Purify Your Hearts**
B. **Get Right:** *"Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom."* (Vs. 9)
    1. **Laughter to Mourning**
    2. **Joy to Gloom**
C. **Get Low:** *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."* (Vs. 10)

Takeaway: You can't get closer to God while holding on to what keeps you from Him.