

## Humble Yourselves Before the Lord

### Introduction and Review

- The major cause of conflict among these suffering believers was their sinful desires for self-indulgent pleasures (v. 1-2).
- The result of these sinful desires was conflict & strife in the church, selfish & perverted prayers, and active participation in this self-indulgent lifestyle (v. 2-5).
- James exhorted these believers to repent from these sinful desires & actions. He reminded them that the **grace** of God is available for victory, but **humility** is also essential for victory (v. 6-10).
- Pride & arrogance always results in damage (Pr. 16:18).

### I. Pride Damages Relationships (v. 11-12)

#### A. Words

“speak evil against” (**καταλαλέω**) means to slander or defame someone. Slander is an unjustifiable verbal attack against someone with the intent of causing harm. James says believers are not to slander other believers because the word of God (the law) forbids it (Lev. 19:16, 18; Jas. 2:8). **So then to slander a believer is equivalent to speaking evil against the word of God that forbids slandering.**

#### B. Judgment

“judge” (**κρίνω**) means to condemn someone as guilty & liable to punishment. So rather than loving each other as the word of God commanded, they were condemning each other & disregarding the law. They placed themselves on the same level with God when they judged **a believer as condemned & the word of God not worthy to be obeyed** (v. 12)! *Judgment takes place in the heart (mind or thought process) before slander takes place in the mouth.*

**APPL:** Whenever a believer thinks too highly of himself & his/her opinions, he/she will condemn other believers who may disagree (Rom. 12:3). James reminds us that slander is a sin both against the person who is accused & against God who forbids it.

### II. Pride Damages Future Planning (v. 13-17)

#### A. Finances & income (v. 13)

*These believers were handling their financial matters without considering the will of God through prayer, His word & guidance from the Holy Spirit. They were making their financial plans like an unbeliever – solely based on ungodly wisdom. Jesus must be Lord over every aspect of a believer’s life – investments, career, spending, savings, education, etc. (Mt. 6:33).*

#### B. Mortality (v. 14-15)

*Pride can cause believers to temporarily forget their mortality while in pursuit of life’s goals. Believers know that everyone is will die & give an account to God for their life – wealthy, poor, healthy, sick, etc. (Lk. 12:16-21). Doing the will of God is to be the supreme desire of every believer & submitting to His will is a glorious privilege (v. 15).*

#### C. Consequences (v. 16-17)

*Pride causes believers to temporarily forget that there are consequences to our willful & stubborn actions. James is reminding us that not doing what we know is right is still a serious sin – **sin of omission**. To assume that God will continue to be patient without discipline is also a serious misjudgment (Rom. 6:1ff; Ps. 19:13).*

**ILL:** The movie “Courageous”: the father was judgmental toward his son’s athletics (running) & spoke of his son & his athletics in a condescending way. This damaged their relationship. The father assumed he had plenty of time with his children until his daughter was killed suddenly. Then he realized the damage & sin of omission with his children. By grace & the HS, he repented & changed...

**APPL:** Likewise we can have judgmental thoughts about other believers & deliberately say things intended to harm them. This damages Christian relationships. And planning our future outside the will of God damages our fellowship with Him. By grace & the power of the HS, we too can repent & change...

## CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brothers & sisters will you think carefully about the way pride may be affecting you today; affecting your relationship with other believers & fellowship with God? Will you seriously consider whether or not you have judgmental thoughts about another Christian? Do you speak condemning words that wound? Are you making plans for your future out of pride; doing exactly what you think is best or your friend thinks, career advisor, investment, lifestyle change, etc.? Pride & arrogance cause us to deliberately do what is wrong or not do what we know is right – both are considered sin before God. But in Jesus we have forgiveness. By His amazing grace & the limitless power of the HS, we can have victory of this sin. Therefore humble yourselves before the Lord today & be delivered!

If you are not a Christian, I want to remind you that the amazing grace of Jesus & the limitless power of the HS can give you victory today also in salvation. Jesus has given His life to save you from the penalty of your sins. Will you trust Him today for salvation; will you believe...?

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