

Dealing with my Pride

James 4:11-17

February 23 & 24, 2008

1. In relationship to others...

Don't speak evil against each other, my dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize each other and condemn each other, then you are criticizing and condemning God's law. But you are not a judge who can decide whether the law is right or wrong. Your job is to obey it. God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to condemn your neighbor? *James chapter 4, verses 11-12 (932)*

- ✓ “speak evil” - saying harsh words about a person behind their back.
- ✓ “the law”- God’s laws- the commandments
- ✓ It’s pride that puts me in the position to judge you because God never puts me in that position.
- ✓ “brothers and sisters” what hope is there for Bethel reaching lost people if we fail to love each other.
- ✓ Learn to “speak the truth in love”

Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs chapter 11, verse 2 (488)

- a. Pride fosters an un-teachable spirit.
- b. Pride magnifies your faults and blinds me to my own.

Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." *Matthew chapter 22, verses 37-40 (753)*

- ✓ Love God-Love People – Love People-Love God
- ✓ If you obey all the commands of the bible but don’t love others you are not spiritual.
- ✓ The “law of love” can only be obeyed through humility.

- ❖ With whom have I been prideful?
- ❖ How have I been prideful?
- ❖ When will I speak to this person?

Remember it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not to do it.

James chapter 4, verse 17 (932)

2. In relationship to God...

Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog-it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you will be boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil. *James chapter 4, verses 13-16 (932)*

Pride keeps me from placing my plans in God’s hands.

- Planning is biblical but planning apart from God is prideful.
- Plans made apart from God have no power- Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. John chapter 15, verse 4 (824)
- Plans made with God produce wonderful results- "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John chapter 15, verse 5 (824)

You will experience your greatest potential by placing your plans in God's hands.

<p><u>PRIDE</u></p> <p>My life is my own. Life is a daily grind. I am here to be served. I am entitled.</p>	<p>VS.</p>	<p><u>HUMILITY</u></p> <p>I belong to God. Life is a daily gift. I serve. I am accountable.</p>
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You will experience your greatest joy when you place your plans in God's hands.

When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love. I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

John chapter 15, verse 10-11. (824)

- ❖ How have I been prideful with God?
- ❖ What steps will I take to experience change in these areas?

Remember it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

James chapter 4, verse 17 (932)

For Further Study:

1. In Genesis chapter 3 how did Satan (serpent) use pride to deceive Eve?
2. Read the story of King Saul in 1 Samuel chapters 18-24 to see how destructive pride can be.
3. Identify those prideful areas of your life and confess them to God.
4. Read Acts chapter 2 to discover what qualities are important for believers in a church.
5. Why is humility so powerful in God's hands. Philippians chapter 2.
6. Identify one relationship you need to humble yourself.
7. How does God oppose the proud?
8. How does God favor the humble?
9. Read John chapter 15, verse 1-11.
10. Is God #1 in all the areas of your life?

Next week: *James 5 - Hope*