

God Resists The Proud

# James 4:1-6

Christians in Dispersion are becoming like  
Ozymandias: pride, selfish ambition

1: Cause of fussing / fighting? Desires for  
PLEASURE... 'Hedonism'

2: Burn with envy / anger. Fight to get their  
way. Murder in the heart

- 1 Jn.3:15, Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him

# James 4:1-6

3: Prayer fails when we <sup>1)</sup> do not ask, or <sup>2)</sup> ask with selfish motives. Why do we pray?

4: Adulterous Christians break vows to God to pursue another friend – world... Mt.16:4

5-6: Scripture indicts – proud. Ac.7:51

- 2 Tim.3:2, in last days “men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud...”
- Gal.6:3, thinks himself to be something when he is nothing...

# I. What Is Pride?

# Superiority contest

- Arrogant, haughty, contemptuous
- “*In honor preferring himself*”
- Ro.12:10, Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

## Ja.4:6 quotes Pr.3:34

- 3:34, haughty are friends of world
- 6:17, God hates haughty eyes [proud look]
- 16:5, proud heart is abomination
- 16:18, pride goes before destruction
  - Haughty: height, then exaltation (over others)

I. What Is Pride?

II. God Resists The Proud, Ja.4:6

# Resist: military term: range in battle against

- Pride challenges God. Ro.8:31
- But: If God is against us, who can be for us?
  - “You can’t fight city hall”
- Why does God resist pride? Pride resists God.
  - 1 Sm.15, pride discourages confession
  - 2 Chr.26, pride punishes the conquered
  - Mt.18:1-4, pride defeats conversion

I. What Is Pride?

II. God Resists the Proud

III. Types of Pride

# 1. Spiritual, Is.65:5

- Gentiles found God...
- Jews were left behind
  - 2: problem is not God
  - 3-4: openly rebellious
  - 5a: I am holier than you
  - 5b: God: smoke in My nostrils. Jn.18:28

No sin is more abominable  
to God than religious pride

# 1. Spiritual

- Pharisees seemed especially at risk
  - Mt.6:1-5, **command**: hide when tempted to show
  - Mt.6:16, **command**: show when tempted to hide
  - Lk.7, Pharisee and 'sinful' woman

# 1. Spiritual

- We are not immune
  - 1 Co.12:15-20, inferior...
  - 1 Co.12:21-31, superior
  - Ph.2:3

“If I had only one sermon to preach it would be a sermon against pride” – Chesterton

## 2. Social

- 1 Chr.21, David
- 2 Chr.32:24-31, Hezekiah
- Est.3:1-6 . . . Haman

Artabanus' warning to Xerxes: "Do you see how God strikes with thunder animals that overtop others, and does not allow them to vaunt themselves, but the small do not irritate Him? And see how He hurls his bolts always against the mightiest buildings and the loftiest trees? For God is wont to cut short whatever is too highly exalted."

### 3. Intellectual

- Ac.17:17-21, Athens
  - What prevented a repeat of Acts 2? Soil
- 1 Co.1:21, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

## 4. Material, Ja.2

### 1: incompatible: faith and partiality clash

- Lit., lift up the face...accept at face value alone – looks, social status, race, etc.
- Jesus came to break down such barriers
  - We are all on same level
  - Justice: blindfolded lady, holds scales – impartial
  - Prisoners

## 4. Material, Ja.2

### 2-4: illustrated

- 2a, rich man. “Clothes make the man”
- 2b, poor man. “If you must sit, sit on the floor”
- 3, judgment based on externals – is one soul worth more than another?
  - “Christians” (?) condemn the poor man by externals
- 4, self-made judges use worldly standards
  - Jesus was poor

## 4. Material, Ja.2

5: illogical. Lk.6:20. Jn.7:24.

6-7: inconsistent – they exalted ones who brought them pain and blaspheme their Lord

8: important

- Royal law (v.5) – king of all laws
- Mt.22:39, you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Lv.19:18)
- Neigh·bor – whoever is near you
- Mt.7:12 whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets

## 4. Material, Ja.2

### 9-11: iniquity

- Sin is missing the mark
- Even in human justice system, man becomes criminal when he breaks one law

### 12-13: inadequate

- This is no way to prepare for Judgment
- Our acts of mercy rise to defend us
- Opposite is also true
- Heavenly Court: God sees our unkind reaction to poor man

“Whatever problems exist in a church, they always start out with the desire to please oneself”

Q: “Why are you fighting?”

Ans.: “I want...”

James 4:6, how a Christian can succeed: submit to God’s will instead of insisting on his own way