Calvary Chapel Living Water

SELF ON TRIAL

James 4:1-17(Matthew 5:3-11)

Vs. 1-2 True pleasure is found in contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6-8Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7**For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. **8**And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

The solution 🡪 PRAYER

Vs. 3 “If men were content with what God has given them, what staggering conflict and unrest would be avoided! If we loved our neighbors as ourselves, and were more interested in sharing than in acquiring, what peace would result! If we would follow the Savior’s command to forsake all instead of to accumulate, to lay up treasures in heaven rather than on earth, what contentions would cease!” William MacDonald *Believer’s Bible Commentary*

Vs. 4 1 John 2:15-17Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16**For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. **17**And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Vs. 5 Deuteronomy 4:24For the Lord your God *is* a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Points back to 3:13-18

Vs. 6 “Pride and prayerlessness go hand in hand. If I don’t pray in a given day, it is the ultimate indication of pride because it is the proud person who says, “I don’t need to pray about it. I can handle it.” Jon Courson

PRIDE – The Cancer of the Soul

(Self-Confrontation)

Pride is simply being filled with self and a sense of one’s own importance. The greater the self life, the more prominent pride will be within a person.

**A Haughty Spirit**

When one thinks of the word haughty, an image of a wealthy snob quickly comes to mind. However, the Bible uses the term to describe any attitude of “being better than others.” One need not be rich to be filled with haughtiness. Seeing oneself as smarter, prettier, stronger or more capable than others are all aspects of arrogance. Although this kind of mentality is encouraged in our culture, there is no room for it in the kingdom of God. The Psalmist said, “…No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure. For though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly; but the haughty He knows from afar.” (Psalm 101:5; 138:6)

**Self-Protective Pride**

An individual with self-protective pride has a very difficult time being vulnerable to others. He is extremely defensive and easily offended. This person has fortified himself with an elaborate system of walls and defense mechanisms, in an attempt to keep himself from vulnerability. Because the person with self-protective pride is generally a sensitive person by nature, often the slightest offense will drive him to “save” himself from further harm. Hence the walls of his personal fortress thicken and become even more impenetrable to any additional “intruders.”

**Unapproachable Pride**

The person with unapproachable pride cannot be corrected, reproved, or confronted on any matter. He is noticeably tense whenever he is dealt with about areas in his life which need correction. Solomon said, “He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself. Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you, reprove a wise man, and he will love you.” (Proverbs 9:7-8)

**Know-It-All Pride**

The person with know-it-all pride is usually very talented, gifted, and knowledgeable. He tends to think that he can do anything, and in many ways, he often can! He has a great deal of distrust in the abilities of others because of his super-inflated view of himself – his incorrigible ego. He views himself as the man with all the answers because he loves to think highly of himself. But in reality, he has deceived himself into believing that other people have nothing to teach him. He contemptuously discredits the abilities of others because of his arrogance. Paul said, “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God…”

(1 Corinthians 3:18-19)

Consequently, the person with “know-it-all pride” needs to learn to humbly ask advice from others. The Apostle Paul said, “Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.” (1 Corinthians 8:1b)

**Self-Exalting Pride**

An individual dominated by self-exalting pride feels the need to be the center of attention. Not only does he thrive on everyone noticing him, but he usually has the natural personality that attracts people. He is generally very gregarious and fun-loving. Not only does he enjoy the attention he receives, but people love giving it to him! Solomon said, “Let another praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.” (Proverbs 27:2) The person struggling with this kind of pride needs to learn to develop a quiet meekness. Rather than always promoting himself and making sure that everyone notices his good deeds, he must learn to quietly work for the Lord and allow Him to do the promoting. James admonishes us: “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (James 4:10)

**Unsubmissive Pride**

Those who struggle with unsubmissive pride are rebellious to authority. This person is also confident in his abilities (as characteristic of someone in know-it-all pride) and thinks *he* should be the one in leadership. He arrogantly places himself at the same level as those God has placed over him. He may make brazen statements like, “I hear from God, not man.”

Since the 1960’s, rebellion has run rampant in America. Rather than accept orders from a superior at work or at church, society teaches us to continually question authority. How different is God’s perspective on authority. “Obey your leaders and submit to them;” Hebrews 13:17 says, “for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account.”

This rebellious spirit is also pervasive in the Church today. We need to humbly accept our position under the leaders God has set over us. If God has placed us under the care and authority of a pastor, we should submit ourselves to his leadership as unto God.

**Spiritual Pride**

Lastly, anyone with a “holier-than-thou” mentality is in the opposite mindset of those Jesus described as being “poor in spirit.” The one with spiritual pride imagines himself to be a spiritual giant. God detests self-righteousness and spiritual pride. Paul said, “For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith… Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.” (Romans 12:3, 16)

Vs. 7-10 10 Commands (imperative verbs in the Greek text):

1) Submit to God

2) Resist the devil

3) Draw near to God

4) Cleanse your hands

5) Purify your hearts

6) Lament

7) Mourn

8) Weep

9) Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom

10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

Get serious about seeking God, then you will hear from Him. The purpose of mourning and cleansing is not so that God will speak – but to get me tuned in to the right frequency so that I can hear Him already speaking. Think of it this way…

*Right now, channel 7 is broadcasting all sorts of words and images. But we aren’t tuned in to the frequency. To get the picture, we’d have to take some time, bring in a TV, and put up an antenna. Would we do that to impress Channel 7 to send pictures our way? No. They’re already doing that constantly. We’d have to bring in a TV and put up an antenna simply to get us in the position to receive what’s already being broadcast from Channel 7 continually.*

Vs. 11-12 Censoriousness or speaking evil against a brother.

Vs. 13-16 Self-confident, boastful planning in independence of God. Note the details:

the time **today or tomorrow**

the personnel **we**

the place **such and such a city**

the duration **spend a year there**

the activity **buy and sell**

the anticipated result **make a profit**

Q – What is missing? 🡪 God! This individual has more in common with the enemy of God.

Isaiah 14:13-14For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14**I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

Notice the Apostle Paul:

Acts 18:21but took leave of them, saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing.” And he sailed from Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 4:19But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

Sometimes Christians employ the letters “D.V.” to express this sense of dependence on God. These letters are the initials of two Latin words, *Deo volente*, meaning *God willing.*

Vs. 17 “This is what we call the sin of omission. As a child of God, there are many things that are required of me. If I know to do good, but I don’t do it, it is just as sinful as doing something I should not have done.” Chuck Smith

Summary: In chapter 4, James has put us on trial with regard to covetousness and conflict, with regard to evil-speaking, and with regard to planning without consulting the Lord.

Q’s – Am I continually anxious to get more or am I content with what I have?

Am I envious of those who have more than I?

Do I pray before purchasing?

When God speaks to me, do I submit or resist?

Do I speak against my brothers?

Do I make plans without consulting the Lord?