

**James - Living Out Your Faith
"Dealing With Pride"**

James 4: 1-10

¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4: 1-10 (NIV)

1. How Can Pride Affect Us

- a. Our heart attitude
- b. Our relationship with others
- c. Our relationship with God

2. How Can We Overcome Pride

- a. God gives grace to the humble
- b. Submit yourself to God

James 4: 1 -10

Questions for personal or small group study & reflection

1. Over what and with whom did you quarrel most when you were a kid?
 2. What purchase is highest on your "wish list" now? Why?
 3. From what does the strife mentioned in verse 1 come: Persecution? Possessiveness? Private pleasures? Misguided prayer? Frustrated desires? [See James 1:14]
 4. Is God against pleasure? What is wrong in living to increase one's pleasure?
 5. What is your usual response when your desires are frustrated?
 6. Why does James refer to church members as "adulteresses"? What does adultery consist of? Who is the aggrieved husband? What is wrong with friendship with the world?
 7. James 4:7-10 contain 10 different commands. Why are these actions so vital? In what way do they go against our nature?
 8. How is the "world" trying to get you to be its "friend" now? How is that related to your faithfulness to God?
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