



PRIDE - James introduces this topic in 3:14, 16 → "jealousy and selfish ambition"

Deep in the Bible Study of James (4:1-17)

Signs of Pride Part 1 (1-6)

Quarrels & Fights (1-2)

*Conflict is more likely to occur when we focus on our own desires rather than looking out for the best interest of others -Phil 2:1-4, 14-15

*Contrast with a climate of "peace" for a "harvest of righteousness" (3:18)

Unwilling to ask God (2)

*We can feel so self-sufficient that we do not even recognize the need to ask God for things in prayer (1:19)

James 4:1-17 *Gr. **polemos & machê** - Nouns used for warfare

¹What causes **quarrels** and what causes **fights** among you? Is it not this, that your **passions** are at war within you?

Passions: Gr. ἡδονή - **hêdonê** → Where we get our English word "hedonism"

²You **desire** and do not have, **so you murder**. You **covet** and cannot obtain, so you **fight and quarrel**. You do not have, because **you do not ask**.

Not asking because you don't see the need to ask for anything from God

³You ask and do not receive, because **you ask wrongly**, to spend it on your **passions**.

Asking with the wrong motivation

⁴You **adulterous people**! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? **Therefore** whoever wishes to be a **friend of the world** makes himself an **enemy of God**. <- You can't have both (Mt 6:24)

What "Scripture" is he quoting?

⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the **Scripture** says, "**He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us**"? <- Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:12-20

Possible James is simply paraphrasing passages such as: **Exo 20:5 & 34:14**

Murder (any sin): coming from selfish desires (2)

*Our pride can give birth to sin driven by our desire for things that we want but do not have.

-Mt 5:21-22

-1 John 3:15

Asking in selfishness (3)

*We ask for things in prayer, but do it with the wrong motivations (i.e., to fulfill our selfish passions; Luke 15:11-16).

Friends with the world (4)

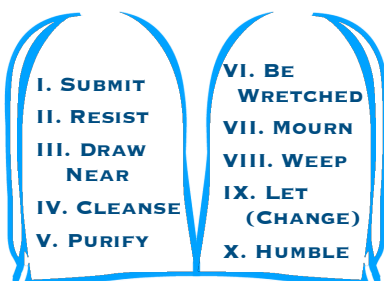
*Described as "adulterous" & having "enmity with God"

-Jer 31:32

-Eph 5:23-32

-1 Cor 6:12-20

10 Commands for the Proud (7-10)



Submit to God

*An immediate response to the quote from **Prov 3:34**

*Since God "opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble," we should choose to surrender our desires and submit to God's will for our lives.

Resist the Devil

*Satan uses our selfish desires to lure us into sin (1:14-15)

*God has promised that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear (1 Cor 10:13)

*With the help of His Holy Spirit (Rom 8:13) we can resist the devil and overcome temptation

Draw Near, Cleanse, Purify

*Get close to God and allow Him to transform our conduct and our hearts (1:19-27; Rom 12:2).

Be Wretched, Mourn, Weep

*To seek and accept God, we **MUST** first recognize our own spiritual poverty (Mt 5:3-4)

*We will never seek God unless we believe we **NEED** Him!

⁶But he gives more grace. **Therefore** it says, "God opposes the **proud**, but gives grace to the **humble**."

Prov 3:34

James 3:9-12

⁷**Submit** yourselves **therefore** to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸**Draw near** to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners, and **purify** your hearts, you **double-minded**. ⁹Be **wretched** and **mourn** and **weep**. **Let** your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰**Humble** yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Faith in Self vs. God

Much of the message of the New Testament is concerning the contrast between our human instinct to put faith in ourselves and the need to lay down this instinct and instead put our faith in God.

Humble Yourself

*If we truly understand our spiritual poverty, then this should give us a fresh perspective on who we are compared to the almighty creator of the universe.

*If we have the right perspective, God promises He will lift us up

-Mt 23:12

-Lk 14:11; 18:14

-Phil 2:5-11

-1Pe 5:6



Signs of Pride Part 2 (11-16)

Speaking evil against another / Judging a neighbor (11-12)

*Points to previous text about the "royal law" -2:8-13; Lev 19:18

*When we do this, we are putting ourselves in the position of God.

Boasting about oneself and the future (13-16)

*It is "arrogance" for us to believe we are so much in control that we are confident about the future.

Remember...EVERYONE is
SOMEONE Christ died for
James 2:1-13

¹¹ Do not speak evil **against one another**, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, **speaks evil against the law** and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Jam 1:22

¹² There is only **one lawgiver and judge**, he who is able to save and to destroy. But *who are you to judge your neighbor?* <- Jam 2:4 - James has already said that those who show partiality toward others have "become judges with evil thoughts"

¹³ Come now, you who say, "*Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit*" —

Ecclesiastes 9:11 → "...time and chance happen to them all"

¹⁴ yet *you do not know what tomorrow will bring*. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <- Ps 144:4; Prov 27:1; Ecc 6:12

¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "*If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.*"

¹⁶ As it is, you **boast in your arrogance**. All such boasting is evil.

**You Have Been
Warned (17)**

¹⁷ **So** whoever knows the *right thing to do* and *fails to do it*, for him it is **sin**. <- While this statement *might* have broad application, we **MUST** consider the context...

i.e. Now that James has pointed out the dangers of selfish pride, we no longer have any excuse.

Against One Another

*Jn 14:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

*1Jn 4:20-21 "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

If the Lord Will...

*Does James intend for his reader to use this qualification verbally?

*Paul says it here:

-Acts 18:21

-I Cor 4:19

*But not here:

-Acts 19:21

-Romans 15:28

-I Cor 16:5

*Whether Paul stated it or not, he always conditioned his plans on the will of God