



3. The admonition to the proud (James 4:9-10)
 - a. Be abased (James 4:9-10a).
 - (1) The allowances of abasement (James 4:9)
 - a) Be afflicted.
 - b) Mourn.
 - c) Weep.
 - d) Let your laughter be turned to mourning.
 - e) Let your joy be turned to heaviness.
 - (2) The decision of abasement (James 4:10a)
 - a) Humble yourself.
 - b) In the sight of the Lord
 - b. Be exalted (James 4:10b).
 - (1) The people of exaltation—the lowly (Psalm 138:6)
 - a) One does not have to read very far into the Bible before reading where God had respect unto one man while refusing to respect another (Genesis 4:4-5).
 - b) It is very important that the Bible student consider that God does respect, but only when there is a cause for that respect.
 - c) According to Psalm 138:6, the LORD hath “respect unto the lowly.” This truth is reiterated in Isaiah 66:2 where the Lord said, “to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”
 - (2) The path to exaltation (Luke 14:11)
 - a) The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that honour follows humility! But how does this work?
 - b) According to Luke 14:11, “whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
 - c) *Abased* means to be brought low, while *exalted* means to be elevated.
 - d) Matthew 23:12 and Luke 18:14 reiterate the truth found in Luke 14:11, yet none of the verses expound upon how this takes place.
 - e) What or who is at work behind the scenes to make this principle true?
 - f) The answer is found in James 4:10—“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”
 - g) Man’s finite mind-set leads him to think that the way up is up and the way down is down; but according to the Bible, the opposite is true.
 - h) The way up (to be exalted) is down (through humility) and the way down (to be abased) is up (self-exaltation).
 - i) Those who seek to be exalted by others will find themselves frustrated through their own efforts; yet those who seek humility will be exalted by God.
 - (3) The time of exaltation—in due time (1 Peter 5:6)



II. HUMILITY BEFORE MEN (James 4:11-17)

A. Humility in Judgment (James 4:11-12)

1. The manifestation of pride (James 4:11)
 - a. We began with a conversation of “wars and fightings” (James 4:1).
 - b. These “wars and fightings” were the result of inward lusts (James 4:1).
 - c. These inward lusts moved men to kill and fight and war (James 4:2).
 - d. The larger problem was a lack of humility and self-denial.
 - e. In our dealings with others, pride often manifests itself in one of two ways:
 - (1) Self-exaltation
 - (2) Speaking evil of others
2. The progression of pride (James 4:11)
 - a. The steps
 - (1) Speaking evil of and judging one’s brother equals speaking evil of and judging the law.
 - a) Dealing with man’s inadequacies is the responsibility of the Lord and of His law (see Romans 3:19).
 - b) When we step into a place of criticism, we walk a fine line of usurping God’s authority.
 - (2) Judging the law sets one up as a judge rather than as one who does or obeys the law.
 - b. The admonition—“Speak not evil one of another, brethren.”
3. The exaltation of pride (James 4:12)
 - a. The elite status of the Lord
 - (1) There is one lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22).
 - a) The LORD is our judge—*judicial branch*.
 - b) The LORD is our lawgiver—*legislative branch*.
 - c) The LORD is our king—*executive branch*.
 - (2) He is able to
 - a) Save
 - b) Destroy
 - b. The exaltation of self—“who art thou that judgest another?”

B. Humility in Planning (James 4:13-15)

1. Man’s motives (James 4:13)
 - a. The connotation of the phrase “Go to”
 - (1) “Go to, let us make brick, and burn them” (Genesis 11:3).
 - (2) “Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven” (Genesis 11:4).
 - b. The indications of the context
 - (1) “Go to now, ye rich men” (James 5:1).
 - (2) “But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil” (James 4:16).



2. Man's proneness to planning (James 4:13)
 - a. The plan of a date
 - (1) "To day"
 - (2) "Or to morrow"
 - b. The plan of a place
 - (1) "We will go."
 - (2) "Into such a city"
 - c. The plan of duration—"and continue there a year"
 - d. The plan of practice
 - (1) "Buy"
 - (2) "And sell"
 - e. The plan of results—"and get gain"
3. Man's inability to plan (James 4:14)
 - a. Man's limited knowledge
 - (1) Ye know not
 - (2) What shall be on the morrow
 - b. Man's limited life
 - (1) "What is your life?"
 - a) There are three kinds of life.
 - i) Natural or physical life
 - ii) Spiritual life
 - iii) Eternal life
 - iv) Note: Obviously, our passage deals with the first kind of life.
 - b) The brevity of life
 - i) "Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle *that* hasteth to the prey" (Job 9:25-26).
 - ii) "Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (Job 14:1-2).
 - iii) "Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah" (Psalm 39:5).
 - iv) "Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain?" (Psalm 89:47).
 - (2) "It is even a vapour."
 - (3) It "appeareth for a little time."
 - (4) It "vanisheth away."
4. Man's requirement in planning (James 4:15)
 - a. Proper terminology
 - (1) "If the Lord will"
 - (2) "We shall live, and do this, or that."
 - b. Proper reverence



C. Humility in Behaviour (James 4:16-17)

1. Humility in boasting (James 4:16)

- a. The root problem—"your boastings"
 - (1) The boastings of covetousness (James 4:1-3)
 - a) The external wars and fightings (James 4:1)
 - b) The internal lusts (James 4:1)
 - c) The pursuit of lusts (James 4:2-3)
 - (2) The boastings of pride (James 4:4-10)
 - a) The friendship of pride (James 4:4)
 - b) The lust of pride (James 4:5)
 - c) The resistance of pride (James 4:6)
 - d) The hindrance of pride (James 4:7-8)
 - (3) The boastings of judgment (James 4:11-12)
 - (4) The boastings of planning (James 4:13-15)
- b. The compounded problem—"ye rejoice in your boastings."
 - (1) If the boastings were not enough
 - (2) The people were rejoicing in their boastfulness.
 - (3) This reminds us of the warning given in James 3:14:
 - a) If ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts
 - b) Glory not.
 - (4) This reminds us of the truth found in 1 Corinthians 4:7:
 - a) Who maketh thee to differ from another?
 - b) What hast thou that thou didst not receive?
 - c) If thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory?
- c. The nature of their problem—"all such rejoicing is evil."
 - (1) The key word is the word *such*.
 - (2) In other words, rejoicing is not evil. In fact, we are supposed to rejoice as saints.
 - (3) However, we are not to be rejoicing in our sinful boastings.

2. Humility in obedience (James 4:17)

- a. The knowledge required—"to him that knoweth to do good"
 - (1) The uniting word *therefore* reminds us that, in the context, we are still speaking of turning from pride and humbling ourselves in every aspect of life.
 - (2) Knowledge comes from the scripture.
 - (3) Knowledge brings accountability.
- b. The choice implemented—"and doeth it not"
 - (1) While we may apply this generally to all sin
 - (2) The context seems to apply it in a specific manner to pride and the refusal on a man's part to humble himself in the sight of God.
- c. The resulting outcome—"to him it is sin." Note: This speaks of the refusal to do the things contained in this chapter and in the immediate context.