**Humble Thyself in the Sight of The Lord**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**James 4:5-10**

**Sunday Morning**

**June 2, 2024**

**James 4:5-10**

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit 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. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Adultery may slay its thousands, disobedience may claim its millions, but pride will outdistance them both in causing individuals to be lost.

God’s grace can cover many sins, but pride will not allow a person to receive the grace of God, for He gives His grace only to the humble.

**James 4:6-7**

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Consequently, pride will be the downfall of far more people than all other sins combined.

**1. Pride**

**Proverbs 16:18**

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”

Saints, we often miss the depth of the implications in this well-known and often quoted verse of Scripture.

The relationship between pride and destruction is significant. If pride is present, destruction will certainly follow.

If destruction has come, pride was unquestionably a central factor in the equation that produced it.

Certain causes produce certain effects. Destruction follows pride as surely as death follows sin.

Since pride is listed in the Scriptures as sin, and since death is a parallel thought with destruction, then it follows that as death follows sin, destruction follows pride.

We often are quick to recognize the pride in a person but do not equate destruction with it.

It is not difficult to recognize many of the characteristics of a proud person, such as haughty comments, facial expressions, and the proverbial upturned nose.

But when we see a marriage or family that has been destroyed or a business that has come to horrible ruin, we often do not recognize the part that pride played in the demise.

**Ezekiel 16:49-50**

49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

Saints, Genesis 19 tells of an angelic visitation to the city of Sodom, the depravity of its citizens, and the judgment that fell upon them.

When God listed the reasons He sent judgment to Sodom, it was not their immorality or lust that topped the list. It was pride.

**“Committing abomination” was the last item on the list, and it came only after the statement, “And they were haughty.”**

in other words, God’s reference to the one sin for which this city was infamous came only after two previous references to their pride.

It was not their homosexuality that placed the inhabitants of Sodom beyond the mercy of God.

It was their pride. Homosexuality is sinful behavior that the Lord can forgive and from which He will set a person free.

But pride will not allow a person to repent. Without repentance from sin, there can be no mercy.

**Proverbs 28:13**

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy”

Saints, pride places a man or woman beyond the grace of God. When a person is beyond God’s grace, destruction is imminent.

Pride distances a person from God’s grace because it precludes the humility necessary for one to receive His grace.

God gives grace only to the humble, and He resists the proud.

**1 Peter 5:5-7**

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**2. Pride is a Product of Worldliness**

I John 2:16 lists three things in the world that comprise the basis of all sin and temptation:

**(1) the lust of the flesh**

**(2) the lust of the eyes**

**(3) the pride of life**

**1 John 2:16-17**

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.

Saints, these basic evils are categories that encompass all sin Strong’s Concordance says that lust is

**“a Longing especially for what is Forbidden”**

A longing is not necessarily evil, but longing for something that violates God’s Word is evil.

Another definition of lust is

**“Inordinate Desire”**

Saints, the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines inordinate as

**“exceeding reasonable limits; immoderate,” or “not regulated; disorderly”**

So inordinate desire is a desire that exceeds reasonable limits. Consequently, the desires referenced in this passage are actually God-given motivations that are taken out of the parameters that God established for them.

**3.** **Pride is Founded on a False Impression**

A proud person makes the assumption that he is better than others, or at least independent of others, including God.

However, any comparison that a person may make with others is purely superficial and subjective at best, and it is not wise.

**2 Corinthians 10:12**

“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”

**4.** **The Way Up Is Down**

God’s ways are simply higher than our ways!

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Saints, a carnal mind would seek to exalt itself, but this is not God’s way. Before one can be lifted up, he must humble himself.

Before honor, humility must be present.

**Proverbs 15:33**

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility”

So, in God’s reckoning, the way up is down.

**Proverbs 22:4**

“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life”

Saints, Jesus exemplified this truth. Paul explained that Christ humbled Himself unto the death of the cross.

**Philippians 2:8-9**

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name…

**5. Humility Brings Grace**

Saints, Grace is the arm of God that extends to a lost individual and pulls him or her out of sin and gives salvation.

Grace is the essence of salvation because it encapsulates both the power and willingness of God to save.

Grace is available to all people, but not all individuals will benefit from God’s grace.

Grace is free, but it does have a specific and stringent prerequisite: grace is given only to the humble. No proud person can receive it.

**Titus 2:11-15**

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

**Pride does not just disqualify one from receiving grace, but it causes God to resist an individual**

**Pride does not just put God out of reach; it puts God on the offensive, actively preventing a person from finding Him**

Romans 1 reveals the result of this resistance. Paul mentioned these individuals who refused to acknowledge God and who were unthankful.

Then they trusted their own wisdom and followed their own lusts. Next, they committed hideous, immoral acts among themselves. Finally, because they did not even want to be reminded of God, He gave them over to a reprobate mind.

Saints, when Pride is at the forefront of the human heart, soul and mind then this evolves quickly!

**Romans 1:28-32**

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**6. Our Greatest Example of Humility is Jesus**

Saints, without question, the greatest example of humility is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He lowered Himself to become “a little lower than the angels”

**Hebrews 2:9**

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone”

Saints, in all points He became the perfect example of humility. The Book of Philippians reveals that while He was equal with God, He made Himself of no reputation.

**Philippians 2:6-7**

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

**In Closing:**

Saints, our Lord Jesus Christ exemplified the proverb that honor comes only after humility.

He humbled Himself and was then exalted by the right hand of God.

Believers today must learn to humble themselves if they are to be of service in the kingdom of God.

The Lord desires to use each of us and guide us in His path; however, first we must learn to humble ourselves and obey.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**