

THE BOOK OF JAMES

“Humble Yourselves”

Scripture Reading: JAMES 4:6-10

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Today we continue in our expository study in the Book of JAMES. This is week #21. I have titled today’s message *“Humble Yourselves”* (4:10).
-) Between the years of 1988 and 1993, I worked in the Technical Support group at Genicom. For eight hours a day I sat and answered phone calls from usually disgruntled people who owned a Genicom printer, and that printer was not functioning properly. A spoke to a lot of unhappy campers.
-) It was my job to diagnose the problem and fix that problem over the phone if possible. And many times I could. But some solutions required a service call to replace a broken part.
-) While in that group, I developed a document we called the Tech Support Bulletin. This bulletin would describe a common problem found in customer printers, the cause of that problem, and the solution to solve that problem.
-) **SLIDE 10.** Every bulletin included these three points. SYMPTOM. What malfunction does the printer have. CAUSE. This is what is causing this symptom to occur. ACTION. This is what needs to be done to resolve the problem.
-) This logical progression can be used in and to resolve many different situations, not just broken printers. And one of those situations can be found right here in JAMES 4:1-10. So, let’s apply the symptom / cause / action progression to the situation James is addressing in these 10 verses of JAMES chapter 4.

-) **SLIDE 11.** The symptom (problem). We discussed this last week. There were quarrels, conflicts, fights, and even murder among the brethren (JAMES 4:1-3). And those who are supposed to imitate Christ do not act this way.
-) **SLIDE 12.** The cause. Asking for wrong things with wrong motives. They wanted to satisfy their carnal pleasures of lust and envy and they were not receiving. War raging within. There is a spiritual battle going on within every Christian of the human condition vs the Holy Spirit.
-) And, again, we addressed all this last Sunday.
-) So, now we have the symptom and the cause. Today let's talk about the action—the solution necessary to resolve this problem. That solution is found in JAMES 4:6-10. James gives us 6 courses of action we can take to resolve this problem.
-) And to make it easy on all of us, I will present three of those actions (resolutions) today and three more next Sunday.
-) **SLIDE 13.** JAMES 4:6, 10. James uses the word "*humble*" twice in these five verses; once in v6 and again in v10.
-) **SLIDE 14.** To be humble means we have what? Humility. What does it mean to have humility? Webster.
-) The opposite of being humble is being proud. Pride got Lucifer kicked out of heaven. He wanted to be like God. Pride got Adam and Eve kicked out of the Garden of Eden. They wanted to be like God.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Be **HUMBLE** not proud. Folks, it's got to start here. If we do not have this attitude in our attempt to work on our sin problem, then the next five courses of action will be of no value. And remember, we want to be imitators of Christ.
-) Pride is one of the seven deadly sins (along with lust and envy) and we know that lust and envy was part of the problem among the brethren.

-) So, brethren, instead of being proud of your sins, have some humility.
-) **SLIDE 16.** And when we do, v6 tells us that God will give us a greater grace to overcome those sins and v10 tells us that God will exalt us. Some translations say “*He will lift us up.*” He will lift us up above and beyond our sinful desires.
-) **SLIDE 17.** JAMES 4:7.
-) **SLIDE 18.** What does it mean to submit? Webster.
-) **SLIDE 19.** **SUBMIT** yourself to God. We yield ourself to the authority of another and in this case the “*another*” is God and His Word.
-) Submit is a bad word in today’s world and even in some churches today. Wives are to submit to their husbands? No way. Well, that’s what it says. You want to see a marriage that works? Look at one where the husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church (EPH 5:25) and a wife who is submissive to that kind of a husband (EPH 5:22).
-) Jesus submitted to His parents authority in LUKE 2:51. Citizens of a country are to submit to the government authority (ROM 13:1-7). The church is to submit to Christ (EPH 5:24). Servants are to submit to their masters (TITUS 2:9).
-) And here in James we are told to submit to God. To be under His authority. To be obedient to His commandments. A person who has truly humbled himself/herself will obey His commands and follow His leadership. Submission.
-) **SLIDE 20.** JAMES 4:7.
-) **SLIDE 21.** What does it mean to resist? Webster.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Resist the **DEVIL**. If we are friends with the world (devil), then we are enemies with God (JAMES 4:4). If we are friends with God, then the devil is now a defeated foe. And every Christian needs to regard the devil as a defeated foe.

-) We are told to resist (to exert oneself so as to counteract or defeat) the devil.
-) Unfortunately, Christians today give the devil way too much credit and way too much power. The Pentecostal movement has a demon for every occasion and believes that demons can inhabit Christians. That cannot happen. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not any demons.
-) Here is just a partial list of the demons the TV evangelist will tell you that you may have—there’s one for every letter of the alphabet: the demon of anger, bad luck, confusion, debt, envy, fear, greed, hatred, insecurity, justice, knowledge, lust, money, nightmares, oppression, pride, queen of sheba, rage, sickness, trials, unforgiveness, vanity, wealth, zombies. And Jennifer Leclair even has encountered the “*sneaky squid*” demon.
-) Want to know how to resist the devil? Four words. And Jesus said these words in MATT 16:23 and MARK 8:33. “*Get behind me Satan.*” If you want to resist the devil in your times of temptation, just say those four words out loud. It works for me every time. And he (the devil) will flee from you.
-) BGCC, we do not love our sin. We hate our sin. We don’t want to be like the world. We want to be like Christ. We have been called to be separate and to imitate Christ.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Let’s review what we have learned so far from these 10 verses from chapter 4. Symptom and cause. Maybe we struggle with these sin or some other sins. You fill in the blank.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Now we know the first three steps of our course of action to resolve our sin problem. And it all begins with being humble. Humble yourselves.

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