



“Three Sins of Pride” (James 4) 2013

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Fighting and Quarreling (vv.1-5)

v.1 The external conflicts are a result of an internal conflict.

- Verse 1 “desires” = *hēdonē* (hā-do-nā)
- Hedonist: A person whose life is devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and self-gratification.

v.4 is very strong, and should be sobering for the Christian caught up in fighting and quarreling.

- I Cor.3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?
- The Corinthian church had every spiritual gift being manifest in their congregation, and yet they were worldly rather than spiritual.

v.5 There is difference of opinion as to the meaning of this verse, partly because we don't know of a particular OT passage mentioned here. He seems to refer to the general teaching of Scripture regarding man's natural tendency toward envy, which at its root is simply selfish desire, of which God says is evil. The OT frequently portrays the relationship between God and His people in terms of marriage (Isaiah 54:4-6; Jer.3:20; Hosea 2:2). With this in mind, please note that “adulterous” (v.4) in the Greek is feminine (“adulteresses”). Add to this Eph.5:22-32 and the picture becomes very clear. If I am caught up in fighting and quarreling, the ultimate reason is that my relationship with the Lord is not what it should be.

- Fighting and quarreling is external conflict as a result of an internal conflict, the root of which is selfish (evil) and reveals that my relationship with God is not what it should be.

And now there is a second issue we must face from our text: SLANDER (vv.11-12) Note: We are not talking about making godly “judgments.”

- Matthew 7:1 is often misunderstood. This has to do with judgment to condemn, something reserved only for God.

- I Cor.5:12-13. This has to do with making a judgment with an intent to protect and purify.

Lev.19:16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

- Slander: A false tale or report maliciously uttered, and tending to injure the reputation of another. Can be an outright lie (they slandered Jesus, David was slandered, etc.), but it can be what you believe about someone, even though you don't really know the truth, and you not only speak what you believe to be true, but you also condemn them in your heart.

The original slander?

- Gen.3:5...God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- When someone slanders, they put themselves in the place of God.
- Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...

There is one more issue we must deal with: INDEPENDENT PLANNING (vv.13-17)

- All accountable to God (Romans 14:7-8; Hebrew 4:13; 10:27)
- Life is brief (Psalm 39:4-6; Luke 12:13-21)
- II Samuel 6; I Chron.15:13; I Sam.23:2, 4; 30:8; II Sam.2:1; 5:19, 23
- Josiah fighting king Neco (II Chron.25:20-24)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

My mother and grandmother are always saying "The Lord willing."

Three sins, and there is something that all three have in common. Do you know what it is? All three involve the tongue. But that's not all they have in common. The root cause of all three is PRIDE. And guess what? There is a third thing they all have in common. The cure for all of them is found in vv.6-10. There are four specific things God mentions in this cure.

THE CURE (vv.6-10)

- Realize my *sin* (II Cor.7:10).
- Humble myself (This is to deny myself, which is a prerequisite for living the Christian life).
- Submit to God. (Phil.2:5-8).
- Resist the devil (James 1:14).