

“Positioned for Exaltation”

James 4:7-10

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Luke 18:14 – “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

James 4:6b – “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

James 4:7-10 – Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

1. The _____ (v. 7)

- a) _____ to God
- b) _____ the devil

2. The _____ (v. 8-9)

- a) _____ to God
- b) Purify your _____ and _____
- c) Take your sin _____

3. The _____ (v. 10)

Psalms 95:7-8 – ... Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...

Discussion Questions

- Read the parable of the tax collector and religious leader in Luke 18:9-14. Who did Jesus direct his story to according to verse 9? How may a person’s pride lead them to treat others with contempt? Where does the path lead for each of the characters in the story?
- In 4:6, what does James say is the antidote to the prideful desires that cause quarrels?
- God’s grace is the foundation for our reconciliation with Him, but James presents our responsibility for reconciliation in 4:7-10. What is our responsibility following our prideful foray into worldly sins and quarrelling with other believers? [Hint: notice all the commands in these verses]. Why is it our responsibility to reconcile following our sins?
- James mentions three promises in the midst of these commands (v. 7b, 8a, 10b). Discuss each of these promises and the commands they are connected to. What effect should these promises have on a wayward, sinning believer?
- Humility is respecting your limits and knowing your place. In what ways may you pridefully be fighting against God’s ordained limits? In your fight, will God oppose or exalt you?
- Why is it so hard to acknowledge that we are sinners? What sin is the Holy Spirit convicting you of today? What should you do now?