

PT. 8: PRIDE & HUMILITY

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 4:1-12

MAIN POINT: SUBMISSION FIXES PRIDE'S BROKEN POSTURE.

SUBMISSION...

NOT

- Being a doormat
- Enduring abuse
- Blaming others for your choices

IS

- Choosing God's way over your way
- Choosing the right action over your real emotions
- Choosing love over hate

THREE WAYS SUBMISSION OVERCOMES PRIDE

1. Submission overcome _____

- *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (v.1-3)*
- Point: Fights and quarrels among you come from the battle within you.
- Selfishness shapes our prayers.
- Generosity is the antidote to selfishness.
- Observations: _____

2. Submission overcomes _____

- *⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (v.4-6)*
- "Adultery" refers to sin because God describes our relationship with Him as a marriage.
- Pride thinks that God is lucky to have some of me.
- "Jealousy" isn't God's insecurity; it's His covenantly love.
- Observations: _____

3. Submission overcomes _____

- *¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[d] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? (v.11-12)*
- "Slander" includes false statements and dishonoring words.
- Observations: _____

PT. 8: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith shifts from pride to submission.

SCRIPTURE:

James 4:1–12

ICE-BREAKER

1. When have you experienced the relief of a “small adjustment” that made a big difference (health, schedule, attitude, relationship)?
2. If pride and humility had physical postures, what would each look like in a room?

REFLECT (Read James 4:1-12 together)

3. James says, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble” (James 4:6). What does that tell you about how seriously God takes our posture toward Him? (See also 1 Peter 5:5–6)
4. James lays out a path: submit to God, resist the devil, come near to God, and He will come near to you (James 4:7–8). Which part of that sequence feels most important for you right now, and why?
5. James connects conflict to desires battling within us (James 4:1–3). Where do you most notice that inner battle spilling outward: arguments, impatience, resentment, comparison, control, or something else? (See also Galatians 5:16–17)

6. James says, “Come near to God and He will come near to you” (James 4:8). What helps you believe God actually wants closeness with you, even when you feel distant or ashamed? (See also Luke 15:20)

TAKE ACTION

7. Which “posture shift” do you most need this week: choosing God’s way over your way, choosing the right action over real emotions, or choosing love over hate? (See also Romans 12:1–2)
8. James calls us to humble ourselves and submit (James 4:7–10). What is one practical act of submission you can take in the next 24 hours: apologize, confess, forgive, ask for help, delete a tempting app, set a boundary, or pray before reacting? (See also Psalm 139:23–24)
9. Think of one area where you feel spiritually “stiff-necked,” like it’s hard to bend or change. What would a small step of softness look like, and who could help you take it? (See also Proverbs 3:5–6)
10. What would change in our group if we practiced humility in the way we speak, disagree, and repair conflict? How can we create a culture where repentance feels normal and grace feels real?

CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Practice James 4:8 daily this week. Take five minutes to draw near to God through prayer and Scripture, then take one humble action that matches what God shows you.
- Prayer: Pray for God to loosen the stiff places in us, replace pride with humility, and teach us to submit so that He can lift us up in His time.