

INTRODUCTION: THE BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE (4:6,10; see 1Jn.2:15,16; Dan.4:30,27; 5:20)

I. BIBLE: JAMES 4:1-12

A. CONTEXT: SPEECH (3:1f; 4:2,3;11f)

B. WAR: PRIDE (4:1-5; 11,12; see 3:14-16)

1. *word fights: polemics & (s)words* (1a&2b; Ps.64:3)
2. *what I want: bitter, angry, lusts* (4:1,2a,2b; 3:14,16; see 1Jn.2:16; Mk.4:19)
3. *the agony of defeat: conquered by temptation* (4:1b; 1:14,15; see Rom.7:23; Gal.5:17; 1Pt.2:11; Judges)
4. *immorality: murderous slander, lies, gossip* (4:2 /Ex20:16; Mt5:21f; Rom1:30; Gal.5:15,20; 2Co12:20)
5. *idolatry: self-reliance & self-service* (4:2c&3; see Dan.4:30)
6. *prophetic clarity: cheating on God* (4:4; see Dt.5:7/6:5; Ezk.16:32; 23:45; Hos.3:1 /Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:15f)
7. *a godly jealousy: the True Husband* (4:5,6a /Eph.1:13; 4:30; 5:25-27; 2Cor.11:2f /Song8:6f; Prv.6:34f)

C. PEACE: HUMILITY (4:6-10,11; see 3:13,17,18)

1. *greater grace to the humble* (4:6; Prov.3:24; 1Pt.5:5; see Rom.5:20; 7:23f; Is.50:1; 54:5-8)
2. *submit to God & resist the Devil/flee* (4:7; see 1Pt.5:6f; see 2:13,18; 3:1; 5:5)
3. *draw near to God & He will draw near to you* (4:8a /Mal.3:7; Is.55:6f; Heb.7:19; 10:22f; Jn.14:21,23)
4. *cleanse your hands & purify your hearts* (4:8b; Ps.24:4 /Is.1:16 & 2Cor.11:2; Dt.6:5; Mt.15:19; 22:37)
5. *be a doer of the law & not a judge of the law* (4:11,12; see 1:22f; 2:14f; 3:13; see Mt.7:5)
6. *true sorrow for sin: grief of a prodigal spouse* (4:9,10; see Ps.32:3f; Lk.15:19f)
7. *greater promise to the humble* (4:10; see Mt.23:12; 1Pt.5:6,10)

II. PRACTICE: HUMBLE YOURSELF! (4:6,10; 1-12; see 1Pt.5:5-9)

A. KNOW YOUR SEDUCERS (4:1-3; see 1:14f; Rom.7:23; Gal.5:17; 1Pt.2:11; see Mk.4:19; 1Jn.2:16)

B. KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR HUSBAND LOVES YOU (4:4,5; see Eph.5:25f; Song 8:6f; Prov.6:34f)

C. MOURN FOR YOUR UNFAITHFULNESS (4:4,5; 9,10; see 2Kngs.22:19; Lk.15:19f)

D. LOVE YOUR HUSBAND (4:6-8,11; 1:21; see Mt.22:37f; Ex.20:1f; Jn.14:23f; Phil.2:8)

E. BE LOVED BY YOUR HUSBAND (4:6,10; see Mt.23:12; 1Pt.5:6,10; see Eph.5:26,27; Jn.14:23f)

*Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. Why do you have conflicts with other people? Analyze a few recent incidents according to this truth.
4. What is your experience of the “warfare” that James, Paul and Peter refer to?
5. How do you “murder” other people?
6. How do these things apply to our past, current and future discussions and decisions regarding our facilities plans?
7. When you do not pray, why not?
8. When God does not answer, why not?
9. Do you consider yourself an “adulteress”? Why or why not?
10. Do you know and feel the intensity of God’s love for you? How do you respond to this?
11. What is your hope and confidence as you realize the intensity of your unfaithfulness?
12. How do you humble yourself spiritually?
13. How do you humble yourself emotionally?
14. How do you humble yourself behaviorally?
15. What is your hope and confidence as you humble yourself?
16. Do you criticize others for their failures? How so? What is this? What must you do instead?