

Pursuing Humility Before God

James 4:1-10

Introduction: Last week in our first Advent study, Steve talked about the humility of Christ that was revealed in His incarnation. No greater demonstration of humility has ever been expressed than in Jesus becoming a man and ultimately dying on the cross. In this study we will look at the idea that we must pursue humility before God. In James 4, James addresses a group of believers that were facing some big challenges relationally. To this problem, he applies the theological principle that God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. God has abundant grace that He wants to give, but it is given to the humble. May we each grow in our pursuit of humility before God that we might be in a position to experience God's grace.

Opening Discussion: What things do you do as an individual or as a family to spiritually prepare for the celebration of Christmas?

Read James 4:1-10

1. How would you summarize what is going on with this group of believers (vv.1-4)?
2. Why does James call them "adulteresses" (v. 4)?
3. From James' perspective, why is it a good idea to pursue humility before God?
4. What does it mean that God is opposed to the proud (v. 6)?
5. What does it mean that God gives grace to the humble?
6. What are some Scriptural examples of how God gives grace to the humble?

Brian said:

We could go on, but you get the point . . . God gives grace to the humble. He is relationally near to the humble. He renews and breathes life into the humble. He pays attention to the humble. He hears their prayers. He strengthens them. He leads them. He teaches them. God exalts the humble. God gives grace to the humble.

Do you want to be on the side of God where this is how He relates to you? James, is clear, this is the experience of those who are humble.

7. How would you describe your longing to experience God in this way?

8. What things does James command his readers, and us, to do to grow in humility (vv. 7-10)?

9. What does it look like to submit to God? How does this develop humility in us?

10. How do confession and repentance help bring about humility in us?

11. What other ideas do you have about how we can work at being humble before God?

12. What is the main point of application for you from this study?