

# Living In Humility Before God

James 4:11- 5:6

Pastor Art Hunt

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**The Big-Picture Truth:** Our humility before God shapes how we live life.

**Trouble Spot #1: We speak against fellow Christians.**

*Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup>There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?*

James 4:11-12 (English Standard Version)

**Why we are not to “speak against” other believers:**

- Because we are brothers and sisters as well as neighbors.
- Because in “speaking against” someone, a Christian puts themselves in the place of God.

**Trouble Spot #2: We presume as we plan.**

*Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— <sup>14</sup>yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup>Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup>As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup>So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:13-17 (ESV)*

*. . . What does the LORD require of you . . . to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (ESV)*

(See Proverbs 20:24 and Jeremiah 10:23)

### **Trouble Spot #3: We misuse our wealth.**

*Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup>You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. James 5:1-6 (ESV)*

#### **Three pitfalls in using our wealth:**

- Hoarding riches.
- Unethical business practices.
- Living a self-indulgent lifestyle.