

Wednesdays in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
August 26,2020  
James 4:11-12  
You "verses" Me

Whether it's personal between you and I or us vs them or mine vs yours or my side vs your side or my nation vs another there seems to be a common thread running through mankind. James has just explained the constant combat we perpetuate in verses 1-5 of chapter 4. He then outlined the Christian's response in 6-10. It's no change of gears as he enters verses 11-12. In fact it comes to a rolling stop as he lands on the heart of the matter. So many, or perhaps all of us, love ourselves so selfishly that we turn and attack those around us.

I must be good because you are evil. I must keep the law because you always break it. I can not only "do" the law but I can judge you by it. I will ignore verse 12 because in my a) arrogant ignorance or b) ignorant arrogance, feel it does not apply to me. Why can't the rest of you straighten up and fly right like I do? Obviously I now have to point out your sins to others because of your inability to recognize and correct your life. And if you do succeed, it's only because I brought it to everyone's attention and shamed you into compliance. By the way, I know what you're thinking. Yes I do have the right to criticize because I have my act together. Watch and learn you peons! Oops sorry. I got carried away.

James has already shared with us the chief attitude we must possess. Was it knowing our high position in Christ? Our spiritual growth? Our biblical knowledge or Godly maturity? Our bearing up under testing and coming through successfully? Maybe it was our ability to divide God's Word and instruct others in the path of righteousness. Oops sorry. I got carried away again. Look at verses 6 and 10 again. HUMILITY! When I criticize, despise or demean you, it is solely because I lack that one coveted trait. Humility. It's come up a few times around here lately. Tonight it rises to the surface. A humble view of self Can Not gossip about others. It can not cut or wound or destroy. It has been said, "The axe never remembers but the tree never forgets" A hard callous Christian will quickly forget the pain he inflicts on a wounded brother. Tonight we look at our need for humility.

Let's start with Philippians 2:3-14 and Matthew 11:29. Here we find our cause and our role model. Roman's 12:3-5,16. We are a small part of a whole body. Wiggle your fingers. Are you ready? Proverbs 3:34, 11:2, 15:33, 18:12, 22:4. That's just Proverbs. Now let's go through every book of the bible. Just kidding. But there's more! 1 Peter 5:5, Colossians 3:12, Ephesians 4:2, Micah 6:8, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 25:9, Isaiah 57:15, 66:2, John 3:30, Psalm 147:6, Matthew 23:10-12. Finally notice the overarching theme of humility in Matthew 5:3-16. Insert sound of screeching tires. We could go on all night. There is a multitude of scripture on humility. Why? Because you all need it. I don't. I've arrived. Oops sorry. You know.... carried away..... you know.

Big word...IF we could grab hold of a sensible valuation of ourselves we would never be stumbled by the sin of pride, which is the spark that ignites gossip... We would also be finished with the senseless and dangerous battles of You "verses" Me.