

Questions

1. How are speaking against and/or judging others, expressions of arrogance and self-righteousness?
2. What truths about God does verse 6 contain? And how does verse 7 logically connect to verse 7?
3. Why are "submit to God" and "humble yourselves before the Lord" conceptually the same?
4. Read Ephesians 6:11-12. How does this passage fill out our understanding of relational strife?
5. Read Ephesians 6:17. Are you able to effectively wield the sword of the Spirit to fight off the devil's temptations and lies? Do you know the precious truths and promises of God's Word to do battle?
6. Why is it important to draw near to God before you turn from sinful actions and attitudes? What might be the result if you attempted to flip the order?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between godly grief and worldly grief?
8. After considering James' 5 aspects of repentance, what has changed in your understanding about repentance?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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The Treatment for Relational Strife

James 4:7-12

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

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Since sin underlies relational strife (4:1-4; 11-12), the treatment is repentance; and James 4:7-10 provides us with 5 aspects of humble repentance.

Speaking Against or Judging Others (vv.11-12)

To speak against or judge another is to arrogantly usurp God's role as judge. You put yourself in the seat of the judge, who knows the hearts and minds of others.

5 Aspects of Humble Repentance

The word "repentance" isn't specifically stated, but that's what's functionally being described here, because our relational strife is fundamentally a rebellion against God.

1. Submit Humbly to God (vv. 7a, 10)

Here's the idea: Our sin is fundamentally rebellion against God. So, first and foremost, repentance is submitting humbly to God.

"Submit yourselves to God" and "Humble yourselves before the Lord." are conceptually the same, and together they form the overarching commands of repentance with everything else sorta fleshing it out.

2. Resist The Devil (v.7b)

Here's the idea: Relational strife involves spiritual warfare, so James calls us to resist the devil, with the promise that, if you do, he will flee from you.

3. Draw Near to God (v.8a)

Here's the idea: Sin brings dysfunction into our relationship with God, so in repentance we're called to draw near once again to God, knowing that He *will* draw near to us, as we draw near to Him.

4. Turn From Sinful Actions & Attitudes (v.8b)

Here's the idea: In repentance, we must turn away from sinful actions and attitudes and turn to actions and attitudes that love God and love neighbor.

5. Grieve Over Your Sin (v.9)

Here's the idea: Repentance involves heartfelt grief over the realities and implications of our sin.