**PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**A Study of the Book of James**

(James 3:13-4:12 - Be Humble)

*“Pride Goes before the Fall*”

Introduction: What is the meaning of the saying, “Pride goes before the fall”? Do you believe that saying is accurate? (Proverbs 16:18)

**3:13 Humility Is a Product of Godly Wisdom**

“humility that comes from wisdom”

Agree or Disagree: Extremely intelligent people are usually very humble.

What kind of “wisdom” is the apostle talking about? (see also 1:5 in the first lesson of this series and then v17-18 below)

**3:14-16 Earthly Wisdom Leads to Strife**

Note the “outward” problem and the “inward” problem.

What is “the truth” referred to at the end of this verse?

Agree or Disagree: It is sinful to try to get ahead in life and better yourself.

Evaluate: Since Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:39), it is important to work at raising your own self-image and to concentrate on liking who you are so that you can be loving to others.

3:16 Agree or Disagree: Pride is basically selfishness.

**3:17-18 Godly Wisdom Leads to Peace**

“wisdom that comes from heaven is…”

pure - chaste, free from fault  like Genesis 39:9

peace loving - peaceful  like Mark 4:37,38

considerate - mild, gentle, fair  like Genesis 13:8,9

submissive - compliant, willing to obey  like Genesis 22:7,8

full of mercy - sympathetic, shown in actions like Luke 10:33-35

good fruit - a life characterized by thanks like Luke 19:8

impartial - non-judgmental like Acts 10:34-36

sincere - non-hypocritical like Galatians 2:11-14

**4:1-3 Fights and Quarrels**

How does a selfish and covetous mind ruin prayer?

**4:4-6 In Love with the World**

What kind of adultery is James referring to here? (Hosea 4:10-13)

Does vs4 mean we can’t have friends or nice things in our houses? (1John 2:15-17)

4:5 The Scripture quoted by James here is unknown.

Two alternative translations:

1. …that God jealously longs for the spirit that he made to live in us.
2. …the Spirit he caused to live in us longs jealously

“God jealously longs for our faithfulness and love” (Exodus 20:5)

The point is: Envy is not a fruit of the Spirit but of Satan.

How do we overcome the spirit of envy in our hearts? (2Corinthians 5:14-15)

**4:7-10 What should we do now?** (find the seven healthy, humble attitudes)

**4:11-12 Don’t judge me! Or maybe you should…**

Look at James 5:20 and Matthew 7:1-5