

d. Hebrews 10:36; 13:21

- iii. Instead of saying we will go somewhere and *do work* (*ποιέω*), engage in business, and make a profit, we are to give our lives to *doing good* (*ποιέω καλόν*).

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How would you describe the two manifestations of pride that are addressed in James 4:11-12 and 13-17? Have you seen evidence of either of these at work in you?
- What virtues might pride sometimes disguise itself as in the two manifestations of pride that James describes?
- Why is speaking against others, speaking against the law and judging the law?
- We often admire missionaries because they choose a sacrificial life in order to advance the Kingdom. But is that kind of lifestyle or devotion to Christ's Kingdom only for those who are called overseas?
- Why is the *church discipline* described in Matthew 18 not in conflict with James' call for the members of the church not to judge one another?
- How does the call to do good (17) contrast with the self-proclamation to do work and make a profit (13)? How does v17 help us understand how “the Lord's will” is used in v 15?
- How is the Lord calling you to do good—to not fail to do good?

## Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 13)

### Rooting Out Hidden Pride

Jerry Cisar — August 7, 2016

Text: James 4:11-17

#### Introduction

Plantinga: *Augustine characterized pride as the great political enemy in the City of God, the usurper that wants to unseat God and enthrone itself. But now winds are shifting. Of course, pride itself is still with us. People still have affairs with themselves. ...What has changed is that, in much of contemporary American culture, aggressive self-regard is no longer viewed with alarm. Instead, people praise and promote it.*<sup>1</sup>

Augustine: *There is something in humility which, strangely enough, exalts the heart, and something in pride which debases it.*

#### I. The Arrogance of Judging One Another (4:11-12)

- A. It is arrogant to put ourselves in the place of God making ourselves the judge of our neighbor!
- B. Why is speaking against a fellow-believer...
  - 1) judging them, and
  - 2) speaking against the law and judging it?

<sup>1</sup> C. Plantinga Jr., Cornelius. Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin (p. 82). Eerdmans Publishing Co - A. Kindle Edition.

*When we speak against another, we are judging them. By judging them, we are judging how that law is supposed to be applied. And no one appointed us judge!*

C. *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy.*

i. This tells us Who God is, who we aren't, and what we need.

ii. The purpose of God's law is not for us to judge others by it, but to obey it.

D. But what about church discipline?

i. The parable of lost sheep (18:10-14) and the parable of the unmerciful servant (18:23-35).

ii. Going alone and speaking with them prevents slander.

iii. Bringing others along as witnesses requires real evidence, and not simply one person judging another's motives. It brings objectivity into the process.

iv. If the person doesn't listen even to the church, then it is Jesus who carries out judgment for where two are three (i.e. the church) gather and agree Jesus is in the midst, and heaven stands behind the decisions made.

## **II. The Arrogance of Living for Gain (4:13-17)**

A. Who has authority over your life and what you do?

B. Now listen...

C. What were they saying?

i. *"Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."*

ii. What is the problem with saying this?

a) Problem 1: It fails to recognize who and what we are.

➤ Luke 12:15-21

b) Problem 2: It fails to recognize the Kingship of Jesus over us.

D. What should they be saying?

i. *The decretive will of God and the preceptive will of God.*

a) *The decretive will of God* might be referred to as the secret will of God—what God decrees.

b) *The preceptive will of God* is revealed in the precepts He has given for us to live by.

ii. V17 is speaking of what God prescribes.

a) Matthew 25:41-45

b) Ephesians 2:10

c) 1 Peter 4:2