

Steadfast in humility

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Geoff Maile - 14/04/13

Theme

Continuing our series 'Steadfast' we looked at what it means to be steadfast in humility.

Scriptures

James 4:1-17, Romans 10:9, Romans 6:1-12, Philippians 2:5-8

Outline

On Sunday we looked at how James addresses the problem of pride in the people of God and, what it means to walk in humility and how Jesus is both our great example and source of humility. We looked at two key points:

1. The problem with pride;
 - a) Pride rejects the truth - it doesn't reflect the grace of the gospel and stands in opposition to the testimony that 'Jesus is Lord.'
 - b) Prides ruins community - it makes the church self-serving rather than serving others and loses our distinctiveness from the world

2. 'Submit yourselves therefore to God':
 - a) Saying yes to God's way - understanding that humility is evidenced through obedience and that God gives us 'more grace' to obey and that this bears the fruit of victory over sin and intimacy with God.
 - b) Saying yes to God's will - understanding that God is not a 'pocket god' that we ask to bless our plans for our benefit but we need to humbly trust and follow his will for our lives.

Questions for discussion

1. What does the phrase 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble' (v6) mean to you? Has your view of the problem of pride changed at all since Sunday, and why?
2. How easy do you find it to say yes to God? In what ways do you find it a challenge?
3. Paul writes 'you are slaves of the one whom you obey' (Rom 6:16). What do you understand by this?
4. Do you ever struggle with the 'what's in it for me' attitude or treat God like a 'pocket God'? What's the problem with this and how should we live?

Tags

Humility / Pride / Submission / Obedience / exaltation