

Intro:

XI. Drawing Near to God

A. Submission - vs 7a - the first of the ten commands

1. Therefore

a. wherefore is the therefore there for,

b. follows vs 1-6 and 2:17 faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2. submit

a. *hupotasso* - to subordinate; to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

b. used of Jesus submitting to his parents - Lk 2:51

c. used of a Christian to government - Ro 13:1

d. used of all Christians to one another, a wife to husband, a slave to his master - Eph 5:21-22; Tit 2:9

3. to God.

a. Jesus did - Jo 5:30

b. necessary for salvation - Ro 10:9

B. Resistance - vs 7b - 2nd command

1. Resist

a. *anthistemi* - to stand against, i.e. oppose:--resist, withstand.

b. no neutrality - 4:4b to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. - 1Jo 2:15-17

2. the devil

a. *diabolos* - a traducer; specially, Satan:--false accuser, devil, slanderer.

b. What was true

i. we once walked according to the course of this world, - Eph 2:2
according to the prince of the power of the air,
the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

ii. we were of our father the devil, and the desires of our father we wanted to do. - Jo 8:44a

c. what is true

i. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. - Ro 6:16-22

ii. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. - 1Jo 5:19

3. and he will flee from you.

a. After the temptation of Christ - Then the devil left Him - Mt 4:11a

b. He no longer has power over us unless we give in to him - For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. - 1Jo 3:8b

c. God has provided the Armor of God for his defeat - Eph 6:10-17

C. Fellowship - vs 8a

1. Draw near to God

a. Experiencing the shared life of Christ requires

i. humility - obedience to God in resisting the devil

ii. Submission - drawing near to God

- b. In the OT, drawing near to God required a true heart of faith and devotion
 - i. let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves - Ex 19:22
 - ii. the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, - Isa 29:13
- c. Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." - Jo 4:23-24

2. and He will draw near to you.

a. David said

- i. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. - Ps 145:18
- ii. "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. - 1Ch 28:9

b. Jeremiah said, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." - Jer 29:13

D. Cleansing - vs 8b - the fourth command

1. Cleanse your hands,

- a. The origin of this comes from the ceremonial cleansing of the OT priests - Ex 30:18-21
- b. Isaiah used the same figure to picture unrepentant sin in those who presume to worship God - Isa 1:15-16
- c. David rejoiced with thanksgiving for rewarding him according to his clean hands - Ps 18:20

2. you sinners;

a. *hamartolos* - sinful, a sinner.

b. the Jews would have understood these sinners to be unbelievers

- i. Ge 13:13 speaks of the men of Sodom as sinners
- ii. Ps 1 begins and ends with sinners in the context
- iii. In the NT, used of those considered to be hardened unrepentant sinners

E. Purification - vs 8c - the fifth command

1. Hebraic parallelism corresponds to cleanse your hands you sinners

- a. Like David, James associates the outward actions (hands) with the inward heart - Ps 24:3-4
- b. The need is not to just stop or put off the outward behavior, but a change of heart that produces this change - Mt 15:19
- c. How does one purify their heart
 - i. Ezekiel calls on Israel to "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. - 18:31
 - ii. Then God says "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. - 36:25-26

2. you double-minded.

- a. **dipsuchos** - two-spirited, vacillating (in opinion or purpose): double minded.
- b. this person is one who lacks integrity - claims one thing and lives another
 - i. may be unsaved
 - ii. may be immature

F. Misery, Sorrow, and Tears - vs 9a-c - the sixth, seventh, and eighth command

1. Lament

- a. **talaiporeo** - to be wretched, i.e. realize one's own misery:--be afflicted.
- b. verb form only used hear
- c. carries the idea of being broken and feeling wretched - tax collector - Lk 18:13
- d. the beginning of the process that brings repentance from godly sorrow - 2Co 7:9-11

2. mourn

- a. **pentheo** - to grieve (the feeling or the act):--mourn, (be-)wail.
- b. the idea is deep grief and remorse, a complete despair that laments over sin
- c. similar to grief over the loss of a loved one
- d. the final step of the process that brings repentance from godly sorrow

3. weep!

- a. **klaio** - to sob, i.e. wail aloud:--bewail, weep.
- b. the outward manifestation of the misery and sorrow

I. Seriousness - vs 9d - the ninth command

1. Also in the form of the Hebraic couplet like vs 8b-c

2. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Mt 5:4

- a. not condemning legitimate laughter or joy
- b. dealing with flippant, trivial, worldly, self-centered, sensual kinds of laughter - Lk 6:25 compared with 6:21
- c. Jeremiah gives us an example in La 5:15-16 The joy of our heart has ceased; Our dance has turned into mourning. The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned!

J. Humility - vs 10 - the tenth command

1. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord,

- a. necessary starting point for salvation
- b. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Mt 5:3
- c. only way to get God's grace - vs 6
- d. **tapeinoo** - to depress; to humiliate (in condition or heart):--abase, bring low, humble (self).
 - i. Isa 6:5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."
 - ii. Lu 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

2. and He will lift you up.

- a. Isa 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
- b. Mt 23:12 "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
- c. Prodigal's Father's response when his unworthiness confessed . - Lk 15:22-24