

Introduction: Failure to show humility?

They are sins of arrogance that get progressively worse:

- personal slander/judging
- public boasting
- to economic and judicial corruption

I. The Danger of **Proud Speech** 4:11-12

Forbids *denigrating, derogatory talk* toward (and among) believers. A **wrong estimation** of ourselves in relation to our brothers or sisters:

A. Places us *Above* Our Brothers/sisters

1. *We are to view each other as brothers/sisters*
We are children of mercy.
2. Leads to “talking down” Not “coming down” (Luke 10)
3. *We judge* our brothers.
 - Rarely need to “judge” the actions or words of brothers.
 - We don’t need to point out how they have failed.
 - Aside: Times when we must “judge” – 1 & 2 Tim.; 1 Cor. 5. But Jesus warns – “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment” (John 7:24)
 - How do we speak against one another, slander, judge? Various ways.
4. We must humble ourselves before God to have a godly attitudes. Matt.7:5

B. Places us *Above* the Law.

1. We break the Royal Law – in so doing we speak against the law.
2. We become not doers of the law (1:22) but its judge!
3. It reveals our heart.
4. We must humble ourselves!

To speak against, to slander, to judge our brother is a breach of Love!

II. The Danger of**Presumption** 4:13-17

A. Acting with arrogance –

1. In regard to *life*.
2. In regard to *ability*. Psalm 103:15,16
3. In regard to *choice*.

B. To “know” and not “do” is sin.

1. Ties this section together. (1:21-25)
 - How is the tongue to be used?
 - Do I make my plans with a heart in submission?
 - Will God’s care for the poor govern mine?
2. Are we Lost? For surely we cannot keep this word perfectly?
 - “Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (4:10)
 - Humility is the way of the savior!

Repentance or arrogance? Striving or peace? My plans or His? What will it be for you?

III. The Danger of.....Possessions 5:1-6

Where is this all going? True religion is 1:26,27. Religion that isn't just words!

A. The Words of a Prophet

1. Written to Christians or unbelievers? Yes!
To Christians but speaks to the culture.
2. Like the prophets –
 - It challenge to people of God
 - Speaks of judgment on the enemies of God
 - Looks forward to the day of reckoning for the oppressors
 - God's standards are revealed

B. The Problem with Hoarding 5:2,3

1. What did you do with the wealth?
 - a. What is its purpose?
 - Use for good? Prepare for eternity? Relieve suffering?
 - b. A means to significance?
 - Never works. Never satisfies.
2. How much is enough? Eccl.5:10
3. It is all fleeting – perishable – transient. 5:2, Luke 12:33, Matt.6:19-21
4. Uses of money? 1 Tim.6:9-17

C. Defrauding your workers 5:4

1. An agrarian society.
2. Our modern society.
3. The Lord hears their cry.

D. Living in self-indulgence 5:5

1. 2 words – *luxury and pleasure*
2. 2 more words - *on the earth* and *fattened for the day of slaughter*
Luke 16:19ff

E. Corrupting Justice 5:6

- A picture of the savior
- The powerful will give an account

IV. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the Humble.

Use His blessings well.