

GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

Our lesson title comes from an opening quotation of (Proverb 3:34) “But He gives a greater grace. Therefore, it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” (Jas.4:6) (Prov.3:34) [Septuagint/ LXX]

“The proud God opposes” we have described as **hedonistic reversionism** (Jas.4:1-5). Hedonism is described as **worldly pleasure** that trumps the desire to be faithful to the truth of God’s word regarding the source of true pleasure, GOD.

This lesson will study four aspects of Grace To The Humble.

1. One example of hedonistic pleasure is sex outside of marriage.

You desire sex and don’t want to wait on marriage, so you engage in it. Then you don’t want to quit.

- **Single:** “**Flee immorality.** Every other sin that a man commits is outside his body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.” (1 Cor.6:18-20) (1 Cor.5:1)**
- **Engaged:** “Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a **man not to touch (hapto/ sexual arouse) a woman.**” (1 Cor.7:1)
- **Marriage:** “But because of immoralities, each man is to have his **own wife**, and each woman is to have her **own husband.**”

2. Hedonistic Reversionism operates from “cosmos diabolicus”, the worldly system of kakos, evil pleasures of the world.

It is opposed to the revealed Directive Will of God pertaining to worldly pleasure, such as mentioned in point one. The principle of operating based on the body lust trends of the Old Sin Nature connected to Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus - Worldly thinking (**proud**).

Another example of hedonistic reversionism is materialism lust trend of **Judas Iscariot** (John 12:6; Matt.26:14-19; 27:3-10; 1 Tim.6:10).

Another example is power lust trend of the **mother of James and John** in (Matt.20:20-28).

3. James gives the doctrinal solution of God opposing the proud - God gives grace to the humble in (Jas.4:7-10).

James issued **10 imperatives** as the doctrinal solution of hedonistic reversionism, and gives the steps required to becoming humble enough for God to give grace.

- **Submit** (hupotasso/ a.p.impv.2pl) to **God**;
- **Resist** (anthistemi/ a.a.imv.2pl) (Jas.4:7; Eph.5:17) the **devil** and he will flee from you.
 - [Do you see the promise?]

- **Draw near** (eggizo/ a.a.impv.2pl) to **God and He will draw near to you;**
 - [Do you see the promise?]
- **Cleanse** (katharizo/ a.a.impv.2pl) **your hands you sinners;**
- **Purify** (hagnizo/ a.a.impv.2pl/ 4:8) **your hearts, you doubled-minded**
- **Be miserable** (talaiporeo/ a.a.impv.2pl);
- **mourn** (entaeo/ a.a.impv.2pl);
- **weep** (klaio/ a.a.impv.2pl);
- **let your laughter be turned** (a.p.impv.2pl) (Jas.4:9) **into mourning and your joy to gloom -**
- **“Humble** (tapeinoo/ a.p.impv.2pl) (Jas.4:10) **yourself in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt** (hupsoo/ f.a.ind.3ps) [lift you up or promote you like Joseph without reversionism recovery] **you.”** [Do you see the promise?]

4. Jesus gave a different doctrinal solution to the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

The prodigal son was engaged in hedonistic reversionism called “loose living” (Lk.15:13) and “prostitution” (Lk.15:30). **Jesus gave a New Covenant solution to the doctrinal solution while living under the Old Covenant.**

The Prodigal became impoverished (Lk.15:14); got a job, but it couldn't meet his necessities of life (Lk.15:15-16); then he came to his senses (Lk.15:17) “I am dying from hunger and do not have to”; a big rehearsal of what he needed to do to receive grace fellowship with God (Lk.15:17-18).

Divine Viewpoint: “But while he was still a long way off, his **father saw him** and **felt compassion for him**, and **ran and embraced him** and **kissed him.**” (Lk.15:20) [Note five things the prodigal received beforehand].

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the **best robe and put it on him**, and **put a ring on his hand** and **sandals on his feet**; bring the fattened calf, kill it, and **let us eat and celebrate**; for **this son of mine was dead** and **has come to life again**; **he was lost** and **has been found.**” (father's view of his son and no one else, not even the son)

“God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.” We don't have to work our way out of sin and then work our way back into the favor/ grace of God, because Jesus Christ did the work once and forever **for us!** (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Heb.9:12-15/ read).