



# PRIDE

Friday, March 24 | James 4: 1-12

Think for a moment about some friends that are close to you. They may be neighbors, work associates, or friends from church. You are friends because you have a few things in common like kids, hobbies, beliefs, shared experiences, work or you're at the same stage in life. It is easy to be with them. Now think about a few people that rub you the wrong way. They may be abrasive, think differently about life or have a different upbringing. Whatever it is about them it can be easy to criticize them or even speak critically about them. In effect we judge them because in our pride we think we are better.

It's interesting that 200 years ago the church was experiencing some of the same problems we face today. We can benefit from the wisdom of James as we seek to grow closer to God and closer to each other. At the heart of the matter is our pride. Thinking we are better than others. In fact we all fall short of God's perfection don't we? James is challenging us to recognize our shortcomings and turn toward God. We will find His love and grace. In doing so we can extend that same love and grace to others. Who needs your love and grace today?

**Prayer:** Lord I know that I can be critical of others, forgive me of my pride and help me extend your love and grace to those around me so that they might come to know you.

Written by Pastor Allan Mink