

BOASTING ABOUT ONE'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY

James 4:13-17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Self-sufficiency is a terrible sin in the eyes of God. People have been boasting (bragging) about their own abilities, skills, knowledge, etc., throughout mankind's history. Such boasting, bragging is utter foolishness when in reality mankind is but a speck before the Omniscience (all knowing) and Omnipotent (all powerful) mind and that being God who created all things. In all honesty, people who brag on their own selves are totally unworthy of any recognition and are not really thinking and being honest.

I. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS PLANNING WITHOUT GOD

1. James 4:13
2. There is nothing wrong with making plans but believers are to plan and think before they act. The warning is for us to not plan without God. We are encouraged to think things out before doing them.
3. Most people plan their lives without God, as if their own wills and desires controlled the destiny of life.
 - Getting a job, entering a business, establishing a profession, launching a career, earning a living, becoming famous, becoming successful, gaining recognition, becoming important, etc.
4. Most people feel little need for God. They feel that they control their future and that people's future lies in:
 - their own ability, technology, plans, science, effort, education, works, training, discipline, production, confidence, economy, image, employment.
5. Mankind feels self-sufficient, perfectly capable of handling his/her own life and work and lives with little meaningful trust being placed in God.
 - Plans the day of departure: tomorrow or today, plans to seek the future in a particular city, plans how long effort will be exerted, one year, etc., plans details of endeavor and work, buy and sell, plans and projects costs and profits, expects certain gain at the end of the year.
6. In all that mankind attempts to plan and do, God's will MUST be sought, His guidance, help and care and God must be acknowledged in plans. Just how can a person ever be sure that:
 - he/she will ever reach this place or that place in his/her plans?
 - he/she will not have an accident or be stricken with disease or injury?
 - something will not interfere with his/her plans?
 - others will recognize and support his/her work and efforts?

- Proverbs 27:1; Ezekiel 28:4-5; Matthew 6:19-20, 33; Mark 4:28-29; Colossians 3:2; 1 Timothy 6:7

II. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE

1. James 4:14
2. Our minds are limited. We do not know what will happen tomorrow:
 - an accident, a plane crash, some disease, money lost, a broken relationship, a serious fire, some bad news, a stock market rise or fall, some good news, death.
 - We forget and ignore our nature - who we are, how limited we are and how uncertain life is. In pride we want to be in control, to have no need of God whatsoever.

3. The end of life will come to everyone of us (all humanity) and nothing can stop it. It may be due to:
 - a faulty tire, someone falling asleep at the controls, disease, accident, thief, heart attack, etc.
 - Living a self-sufficient life apart from God is the depth of foolishness.
 - Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27; James 1:10; 1 Peter 1:24; 2 Samuel 14:14; Psalm 90:5-6; 103:14-16

III. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD

1. James 4:15
2. Most people go about living life like they want and seldom consider God except in an emergency.
3. Man is dependent upon God for life and should pray and discuss life with God:
 - about his/her wealth, his/her welfare, protection, provision, security, food, housing, clothing, love, peace, joy, fulfillment, peace.
4. Man is dependent upon God for all he does. A thousand things can happen to prevent us from carrying out our plans, therefore a person should trust God, pray and talk over all his/her ways with God:
 - ways of his/her work, each and every activity all through the day, the ways of his/her day, the ways of his/her relationships.
 - :Proverbs 3:6; Romans 12:2; Acts 18:21; 1 Corinthians 4:19; Matthew 6:10; 12:50; 26:39, 42; Luke 1:38; Ephesians 6:6

IV. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS ARROGANT BOASTING, BRAGGING

1. James 4:16
2. Everyone boasts of their work, what they have done, etc., but most boasting is not done with the mouth but by the way one lives. By flaunting one's abilities, successes, possessions, activities, houses, clothes, etc.
3. What a person must do is recognize that all ability and life are due to God and to rest in His hands.
 - Matthew 6:34; Luke 12:16-21; Psalm 10:3; 49:6-7; Proverbs 25:14; 27:1
4. Every hour of a person's life is in the hands of God, not him/herself.

V. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS SIN

1. James 4:17
2. When one knows to do good and refuses to do so, it is sin. We are to trust and acknowledge God and ask for His presence, guidance, help, care and strength in all that we do, as we go about our daily lives.
3. A person is to walk in fellowship and communion with God day by day and moment by moment, acknowledging Him in all his/her ways, committing his/her life and ways unto the Lord.
 - Matthew 7:26, 27; Luke 12:47; James 2:14; Romans 6:23; 8:6; Revelation 3:1

CONCLUSION:

1. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that God is wiser and in control more than all humanity together.
2. For a believer to act as if he/she is in control of his/her life and leave God out is to commit sin.

