

LESS EGO, MORE JESUS

July 13, 2025 // Craig Rees + Alicia Bruxvoort

BIG IDEA:

God's wisdom flows where ego bows—real transformation begins when we trade self-promotion for surrendered presence.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

James 3:13-18
James 4:1-17

1. James asks, "What causes fights and quarrels among you?" What internal desires have you noticed creating external conflict in your own life?
2. "You do not have because you do not ask God." What kinds of things do you tend to ask for in prayer—and what might it look like to begin asking for wisdom instead?
3. Why do you think asking God for wisdom often begins with Him revealing what's in the way? How have you experienced that personally?
4. James 4:6 says "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." How does this verse reshape your view of pride—not just as a character flaw, but as spiritual resistance?
5. The message described humility as "strength under direction." How does that definition challenge cultural ideas of weakness or submission?
6. What does it practically look like to "submit yourselves to God" (4:7) in a situation you're currently facing?
7. When have you used critique or comparison to manage your image instead of dealing honestly with your own heart? What did it cost?
8. James ends by calling us to submit our plans to the Lord's will (4:13-17). What plans have you been holding tightly, and what might it mean to say, "If the Lord wills..." this week?

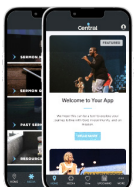
Dear God,

You say, "You do not have because you do not ask." So today—I ask. Not for success, status, or strategy—but for wisdom. The kind that heals what pride has broken, that brings peace where ego has ruled. Give me the courage to ask—and the humility to receive.

Expose what's in the way: fear, self-preservation, image-management. Cleanse my hands, purify my heart, align my plans. I don't want to look okay—I want to be made new. I don't want a curated faith—I want a surrendered life.

So I submit. Teach me Your way. Let Your wisdom shape me, Your grace sustain me, Your will direct me.

Amen.



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