

From the Pastor:

James 3:14 reads, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.” What James said here comes after what he has been discussing in the passage (verses 1-13). A person’s words and actions should reveal the godly spirit of his heart if he is a Christian. James said in James 3:10, “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.” I.e. the Christian should only have good words proceeding from his mouth. And, in verse 13 James said, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in meekness of wisdom.”

A Christian should not have “bitter envy” nor “self-seeking” in his/her heart.

“Bitter envy” is translated from two words in the Greek—“bitter” is from “pikros” meaning “bitter in feeling or attitude.” (Danker’s Lexicon) “Envy” is from “zelos” which can mean in a positive way “intense positive interest in something, zeal” or in a negative way “intense negative feelings over another’s achievements or success, jealousy.” Obviously the latter meaning would apply in this verse.

The point James is making here is that a Christian should not have such attitudes. However, seeking recognition, acceptance, approval is an attitude that is common to all human beings. Envy creeps in when others receive recognition—even when we are not involved in the situation that brought the other person the recognition. This is a form of covetousness. We want what someone else has been given. This is not the approach of a true Christian. The Christian lives to receive praise only from God and not the praise of men. Recognition may come, but, it is not something we seek.

Jesus and the apostles addressed this situation more than once. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven...But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” (Matthew 6:1, 3-4)

In Romans 12 (which contains many truths concerning Christian conduct) Paul wrote in verse 15, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” The point being when others are happy we should be truly happy for them and with them. We are not selfishly thinking about ourselves. Therefore, when others are recognized we rejoice with them.

In whatever we do we must always be seeking to do it with true outgoing concern—true love—and not self-seeking.

“Self-seeking” is from the Greek word “eritheia” which (according to Danker’s Lexicon) means “selfish ambition.” Danker’s also comments that the word in secular Greek denoted “a self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means.”

Paul uses this word in Philippians 2:3 where he wrote, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition [eritheia] or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

The point James is making is that a Christian must not be selfish, self-seeking or self-promoting in his/her heart. The mind is not on the self, but, on others.

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



January 26, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Split Sermon: DVD
Split Sermon: Michael Watts

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,’ when you have it with you.”

Proverbs 3:27-28

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
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Sunset Today in:	6:01pm	6:04pm	6:08pm
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Sunset Friday 2-1	6:06pm	6:09pm	6:13pm
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Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 1/26	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 2/2	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Regional Basketball in East Texas: January 26-27

Regional Teen Formal: March 2, 2019 – Spring-time in Tokyo

There's a grand event in the making, and we hope you plan to come! Please register now; don't wait or you might be late! The Sabbath service will be held at 1 PM at our normal meeting location, Unity of Dallas, but the dinner and dance will take place at a new location this year: The Westin Stonebriar Hotel & Golf Club in Frisco. All teens: Go to <http://www.cogwadallas.org/teens> to register for the dinner and dance. Also, PARENTS, if you have a graduating senior in your family, please refer to the senior questionnaire link at the website for the senior acknowledgements that evening. REGISTER ASAP - Registration deadline is February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Hansen at rachel.hansen@sbcglobal.net.

Summer FI Continuing Education Seminar:

The faculty and administration of Foundation Institute are excited to announce the dates of this summer's FI Continuing Education seminar. These weeklong seminars held each summer in the FI classroom have been very successful in providing an additional opportunity for biblical education for those who are able to attend. A number of people plan to return every year for the classes and fellowship.

This year we will be offering one seminar in the new building, which is in McKinney, Texas. The seminar will be five days long, beginning on Monday morning and ending on Friday afternoon. The dates are July 15-19, 2019. The seminar will offer 29 one-hour classes taught by a variety of instructors and administrators from the headquarters office. The cost for the classes is \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. As in the past, we plan to provide a light lunch each day at no additional charge.

Because of the move to the new building, we will not open registration until the month of February. This will allow us to ascertain the capacity of the classroom and know how many students we can accept, prior to registration. We will make a follow-up announcement explaining the registration procedure shortly after the office move is complete.

Thank you for your interest and support for Foundation Institute.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be February 2.

4th Annual Corpus Christi COGWA Goose Island State Park:
February 22 thru 24, 2019.

Harlingen Chili and Movie Night: Chili supper at 6:30 pm and movie begins at 8 pm, Friday February 1st, at the home of Michael Watts.