

19.

Do not be haughty.

Romans 12:16b

“Haughty” is a way of thinking. It comes from the Latin word *haut* which means “high”. For a church family to be strong, its members must be careful not to think too “highly” of themselves. Eugene Petersen renders this- “Don’t be stuck up.” People who are haughty are generally not prepared to mix with the others in the church. They consider themselves to be “above” others. They do not receive correction because they are unteachable. They prefer to isolate themselves rather than enter into meaningful fellowship. This is one reason why small group Bible study meetings are so important in building a healthy, Biblical, Covenant community.

1. In what way did the Apostle Paul introduce this chapter (Romans 12:3) with a similar command?
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2. How is Psalm 131 the antidote for haughtiness?
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Haughtiness is an attitude of arrogance. It is this attitude that is guaranteed to prevent a sense of closeness to God (Psalm 138:6).

3. Paul lists the qualities of a haughty person in Second Timothy 3:2-5. List and discuss at least 6 of these negative qualities. Discuss what the antidotes to these qualities are. Why does Paul tell believers to resort to Second Timothy 3:5 with haughty people?
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4. The haughty person is often frustrated with God. How could understanding James 4:6 help the haughty person to be less frustrated?
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5. Note First Corinthians 13:4. Love is the goal of following Christ. Based on this verse, it seems that the opposite of love is not necessarily *hate*, but something else. What does First Corinthians 13:4 reveal?

May God help us to grow as a community of fellow believers who know how to get along with each other, care for each other, pray for each other and support each other—no matter our station in life.

Amen.