

## **There is Hope Radio**

**12-1-24Transcript**

### **Spirit of Pettiness-PreacherRichD**

The following broadcast is sponsored by Standing in the Gap. Our focus is intercessory prayer for individuals, the community of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, and America. Check us out on the web at [standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org](http://standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org). That's [standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org](http://standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org).

Welcome to There is Hope.

The advice or counsel given is provided for informational purposes only. Your host for There is Hope, Richard Dover.

Well, welcome to There is Hope Radio.

Today, I'm going to be talking about the topic of pettiness. So you may not think there's much hope when I first start out, but I promise you that we'll end with some hope. When the spirit of pettiness is out of control, it breeds pride, spitefulness, meanness, anger, division, distrust.

How many know that it can damage relationships, families, and even communities? So what I'm going to do is talk about the elephant in the room that needs to be addressed, because many of the problems in our culture today is based upon a root of bitterness. But I want to give you hope. I will end this broadcast by sharing ways to counter pettiness.

And before I go any further, I want to say there's a big difference between pettiness and being truly concerned about serious situations, problems in a community. In fact, in my next broadcast, I'm going to share how to deal with such issues in a healthy manner that can bring positive change into families and communities and even our nation. So let's take a look at some definitions of the word pettiness and answer the question, what is the fruit of pettiness? What is the end result of pettiness? So here's some definitions.

Undue concern with trivial matters, especially of a small minded or spiteful nature. The quality of being unimportant, frivolous, or caring too much about small matters, especially when it's unkind to others. Insignificance, triviality, unimportance, irrelevant, smallness, worthlessness, and meanness.

Getting angry about things that are not important. The quality or condition of being little, lesser, or no importance, consequence, or merit. Insignificance, lack of importance or worth, triviality.

So I think we can see that the fruit of pettiness is far from being a good thing. So pettiness is spiteful, unkind to others, meanness, getting angry, name calling, labeling, mocking, vicious, poisonous words, judgmental, claiming to know the heart and motive of others, unforgiveness, bitterness, spite, and hate. I think we can see that there is not good fruit that comes from the spirit of pettiness.

James 3.16 says, for where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder in every vile practice. I think you can see that pettiness would fall into that. Proverbs 23 says, it is an honor for man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.

Have you ever noticed individuals who are petty will quarrel about anything and everything? It seems like all they want to do is stir up the pot. So here's some character traits of petty people. They're always looking for problems, thus they read into everything with negativity.

They create problems when there were no problems. They misinterpret situations because of their biases. They make false accusations and insinuations.

Now listen to this, petty people will put positive labels on their petty behavior. They'll say that they're just being concerned, they're standing for truth, they're doing what is the right thing. The problem is though, even if they are standing for truth, even if they are trying to do the right thing, it's how they're doing it that creates problems.

Some other character traits of petty people is there's jealousy. They're angry and upset when things do not go the way they want them to go. They're self righteous.

Can it be said that happiness is not one of their traits? What's the harm that's done by petty people? They bring division, disunity, discouragement. They make innocent people appear to be guilty of something they're not guilty of, thus bringing false distrust. They build ungodly alliances, drawing others into their pettiness.

Petty people attract other petty people and that's where the gossip and the rumors start. So how do we counter pettiness? I want to cover some positive things. This is a pretty negative so far.

So this look at ways that we can make sure that we're not walking in pettiness and how we can counter pettiness. In Philippians 2, 3 and 4 it says, do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interest, but also to the interest of others.

So some of the ways that we can overcome pettiness is to not be self centered, to not be prideful, but to be humble and put others above ourselves. In Ephesians 4:29, it says, let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up as fits the occasion that it may give grace to those who hear. If so, if you look at Ephesians 4:29, where it says, let no corrupt talk come out of our mouths, that would mean that the words that come out of our mouth should be words that give life, not words that tear apart, not words that are vile, not words that are poisonous.

So we should speak words that build up instead of tear down. So if we do have to speak direct, if we do have to confront some issues, we should speak based upon facts, not rumors, not gossip, not insinuations, not accusations, and we should speak with love. And then this look at Titus 3:1-2, remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

So in other words, what Titus 3 is saying is do not have a stubborn rebellious spirit. Do not slander, be a person of peace and considerate to others, to be gentle with those you disagree with. What would happen if that was to take place instead of so much of what takes place in our culture? I want to say that again.

Do not have a stubborn rebellious spirit. Do not slander, be a person of peace and considerate to others. Be gentle with those you disagree with.

Listen, the bottom line way to counter pettiness is to walk in love. That love is our motivation. So if we have to address issues, and I'm going to talk about this in my next broadcast, if we have to address various issues that we address them with love, that love is our motivation.

Our actions will be different when we're dealing with serious matters. If we had in our heart love. So before I end this broadcast, I want to pray.

So Lord God, I would just pray that Lord God that you see the pettiness that goes on in our culture. And Lord, I would pray that I myself and those listening that we would make a decision that we don't want to participate in petty behavior. When we see it happening, we're not going to get involved in it.

We're not going to participate in it. Lord God, I pray that we don't make unholy alliances with petty individuals, that Lord, we may agree with individuals in certain issues, but if they're individual that is showing ungodly character, ungodly behavior and actions that Lord God, we don't want to unite with them. We want to distance ourselves from them.

Uh, we, we want to stay away from, from that type of a person. Lord, Lord, I would pray that you would expose any ungodly petty behavior, Lord God, and expose it for what it is. Pettiness that Lord, the person may claim they're being righteous and they're, they're standing up for truth.

But Lord, the way they're doing is it is they're focusing on all the negative and Lord, God, I want to pray that repentance will come upon those who operate in pettiness. Lord God, that you would show them that what they're doing is not righteous, that what they're doing is ungodly, that the actions are ungodly and that Father God, that you would bring conviction upon them. They repent of their behavior and that Lord, that they would address issues in a loving and kind and caring and gentle manner.

Lord God, you see the spirit of pettiness that comes upon our communities, even upon our nation. And we pray, Father God, you'd root out that spirit of pettiness and you replace it with the spirit of love. May love overtake our communities.

May we show respect and love towards others. Lord, may we Lord God, if we're going to stand for truth, do it in a loving and kind manner, Lord, that we would be a reflection of you and Lord, especially those who claim the name of Jesus Christ, that they would not walk in pettiness, but that they'd walk in love. And we pray all these things in Jesus name.

Before we end today's broadcast, I want to take a couple minutes to share what our attitude should be towards individuals who seem to be drawn to pettiness. You know, individuals who seem to always stir up the pot, seem to be never be happy about anything. Only can see the cup is half empty and seem to thrive over drama.

We need to make sure that we are not judging their motives. Only God knows the heart of man. We need to make sure we ourselves do not become petty with them.

We need to make sure that we do not write off everything they say. They may have some valid points, but at times just don't know how to express them in a healthy way. We need to understand that all of us fall short.

All of us are broken and manifest our brokenness in different ways. He must remain humble, respectful, and loving. As I do this broadcast, I need to acknowledge at times, I can be a very petty person.

Sadly, many times to my wife, I'm 100% better than I was then when we first got married, but I still fall short. Thankfully, in spite of me, she still loves me. Let's make sure we hate no one.

Listen, if you call yourself a Christian, you're called to love your enemy, not put up with them, but love them. Not love unhealthy actions, but love the person. What would happen if we all would give more grace to each other? What would happen if we would have compassion upon each other? What would happen if we would find to be a means to be able to respect each other? What would happen if we put pettiness aside and made love number one? We'll never know unless we try.

So let's all make an effort to show a little bit more love, a little bit more compassion, a little bit more understanding, a little bit more willingness to hear out others that we disagree with. We might just make a difference in the world that we live in. Well, we've run out of time.

So in my next broadcast, I'm going to share how we can deal with serious situations or problems in a community in a healthy manner and how we can bring positive change in a community. Thank you for listening to There is Hope. There is hope.

I want us to end this with saying there is hope. So in next week's broadcast, there'll be a much more hope. Before we end today's broadcast, I want to share an exciting opportunity that has opened up.

We have the opportunity to get the gospel to every home in our local communities of Fairfield Bay, Greer's Ferry, Heber Springs, but it gets better than that. We have the opportunity to get the gospel into every home and the state of Arkansas, but it gets even better than that. We have connections in other cities in America and are able to get the gospel into every home in those cities.

Yes, you heard me correctly. We can get the gospel into all of these homes. As exciting as this is, we have even more good news.

The cost for this outreach is \$0. Yes, you heard that correctly. There is no cost.

All of this is able to happen because of Saturate USA, a ministry committed to getting the gospel in every home in America. To learn more about this amazing opportunity, go to [standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org](http://standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org). That is [standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org](http://standinginthegap.creatingfutures.org) and click on gospel. If you have any questions about standing in the gap, there's hope radio about me, your host Richard Dover, or if you have any questions about Saturate USA, you can always give me a call at 1-866-WANT-GOD.

That is 1-866-WANT-GOD. Thank you for listening. You've been listening to, there is hope and any advice or counsel given was provided for informational purposes only.

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