

## Selfish Ambition

**Text: Genesis 11: 1-7, James 3:14-16**

**Gen. 11:1** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

**Gen. 11:2** And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

**Gen. 11:3** Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

**Gen. 11:4** And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

**Gen. 11:5** But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

**Gen. 11:6** And the LORD said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

**Gen. 11:7** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

- Notice, that the intent of the people was to make a name for themselves.
- God could not work with this kind of people. Why? They would be more interested in their mission than in His.
- Many parents, employers, employees, pastors, teachers, deacons, and authors get in the same trap today.
- Their intentions are to honor the Lord but they get out of focus and start building a name for themselves.

- How does God respond? He responds to us the same way He did to the people of Babel—He brings confusion!
- Is God the author of confusions?
- Absolutely not! His truth never brings confusion but He will bring confusion to my life and yours if we become selfish in our ambition.
- The people who came to be known as the people of Babel were confused by God so that they could no longer do what they wanted to do.
- Many today try to do things their way so that they can receive honor and recognition for their success.
- God desires a person who is completely sold out to His agenda.
- God wants a people whose focus is to make a name for Him.
- We at CHBC do not want to make a name for ourselves
- The moment that is our intent, God will stop us in our tracks.
- There is a great difference between God making your name great and making a name for yourself.

**James 3:14** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

**James 3:15** This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

**James 3:16** For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.