

# Pride Causes Ships' Collision

In the summer of 1986, two ships collided in the Black Sea off the coast of Russia.

*SS Admiral Nakhimov*, a Soviet passenger ship, was struck by the large bulk carrier *Pyotr Vasev*, in the Tsemes Bay. The *Admiral Nakhimov* sank in only seven minutes. The *Pyotr Vasev* was not badly damaged and assisted in the rescue effort.



Passengers and crew had little time to escape, and 423 of the 1,234 on board perished. Of those killed, 64 were crew members and 359 were passengers. In the rescue, 836 people were pulled from the icy waters.

News of the disaster was further darkened when an investigation revealed the cause of the accident. It wasn't a technology problem like radar malfunction – or even thick fog. The cause was human stubbornness.

Each captain was aware of the other ship's presence nearby. Both could have steered clear, but according to news reports, neither captain wanted to give way to the other. Each was too proud to yield first.

By the time they came to their senses, it was too late.

Capt. Vadim Markov of the *Admiral Nakhimov* and Capt. Viktor Tkachenko of the *Pyotr Vasev* were both found guilty of criminal negligence and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Both were released in 1992.

Pride gets in the way of good intentions. The Bible calls believers to have a humble heart, to watch out for one another.

In your life journey, are you aware – really aware – of those around you?

Watch out for the other hearts that are cruising along the sea of life, and love the way you want to be loved.

And that instruction accurately sums up the mission to which we are called in Life Care and Century Park.

Let's adhere to it as we go about our daily responsibilities. And practice humility.

*So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain (Ezekiel 33:31 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter