

Pure Religion
Less Is More – James 1:19-20
February 11, 2018

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. - **James 1:19-20**

I. SANDWICHED IN THE WORD

- James “sandwiches” this brief exhortation between two statements concerning the word of God (James 1:18, 21).
- God’s word—his gospel—is a gift from him. When implanted in our lives, it makes a profound difference within us (Ps. 119:9-16, 105; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:22-24).
- The exhortations in verses 19-20 make little sense if God’s word is not abiding in the heart.

II. ANGER AND BITTERNESS

- “Be quick to hear, slow to speak” does not mean “never speak.” In the same manner, “slow to anger” does not mean “never be angry” (Exodus 32; Eph. 4:26).
- Human anger does not comport with righteous behavior (Gen. 49:5-7).
- Anger, if not guarded, becomes bitterness. And bitterness is not an easy outlook from which to break away (Heb. 12:14-15).

III. WHAT A MATURE CHRISTIAN LOOKS LIKE

- James wants to help us so that we do not get stuck in Christian infancy (James 1:4).
- The apostle Paul felt the same way (Eph. 4:11-16).
- Mature Christianity looks like a person who can control themselves. They look like God (Ex. 34:6-7).
- We are striving for a wholesome life, lived out for the glory of God (Eph. 4:25-5:2).

KNOW: We are called to a peaceful, respectful lifestyle, not to excessive talk, anger and bitterness. We do not demonstrate the character of God by hating sinners, we do it by loving each other.

DO: Listen more, speak less, and do not let bitterness and anger destroy your life.

Recommended Reading:

The Mark of the Christian by Francis Schaeffer (LifePoint Library #248.4 SCH)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 1:19-20

1. How has the word of God impacted your life, specifically?
2. What, generally speaking, is James telling us in this passage?
3. What is it about the qualities that James speaks about in this passage that make them admirable?
4. If a person displays the opposite of these qualities, what type of person are they? Someone that you want to spend a lot of time with?
5. What is your takeaway from Sunday’s message? In what ways might these words from James change you?