

SPIRITUAL TONE DEAFNESS

James 4:11-17

Tone – a musical or vocal sound with reference to its pitch, quality, and strength; or the general character or attitude of a place, piece of writing, situation, etc.

Spiritually off pitch, tone deaf. They are “evil speaking,” and “boasting” (aka – pride).

(Revelation 2:7a) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit, (His Conductor), says to the churches.”

“Key” of, Love – (v.11, 12)

(Jeremiah 29:11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

“Evil speaking” is saying things God would never say about others!

The “Law of Christ,” *The Law of love!*

(John 13:34-35) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(Galatians 5:13-15) For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

(Hebrew 7:19) “...for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

Galatians 2:16 – “justified,” through faith in Jesus Christ, not by the “works of the law!”

(John 8:7b, 10, 11) “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

If Christ forgives, then “Who are we to judge (condemn)?”

There is only “One Judge,” *Who is able to save and destroy, JESUS!*

Judge – krino: to separate, put asunder, pick out, select, etc.

Here is what “doing,” rather than “judging” looks like.

(Colossians 3:12-14) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Secondly – tuning to the “Key” of Faith – (v.13-17)

The “key” of “A” (arrogance/pride) is always out of tune with our “Conductor,” Jesus!

(Proverbs 16:9) A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Work, as if it all depends on you. Trust, as if it all depends on God! It's not either or, but both and!

(Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

(v.14) We are just “vapors.”

(Psalm 39:5b-7) Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah - Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them.
"And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

(Proverbs 20:24-25) A man's steps are of the Lord; How then can a man understand his own way? It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.

God calls us to place the fragility of our human existence, in the only “safe place,” His hands!

It is “sin” to rely upon oneself, to the exclusion of God!

(Proverbs 3:5-6) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

CONCLUSION:

Without “love” and “faith,” we will remain *spiritual tone deaf*.

Reset your heart daily to follow the lead of His “baton!”

(Isaiah 58:11) The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.