

BEFITTING CONDUCT

James 1:19-27

Temperance - (v.19, 20)

Wrath – anger, temper, character; agitation of the soul, impulse, violent emotion.

A wrathful attitude: Forgets three things.

1) Our warfare is spiritual, not physical.

(2 Corinthians 10:3-4) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

2) Be angry but sin not.

(Ephesians 4:26-27) “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

3) Vengeance does not belong to us.

(Romans 12:19) Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Leave room for God to work!

(Isaiah 41:11-13) "Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. You shall seek them and not find them —

Those who contended with you Those who war against you Shall be as nothing As a nonexistent thing. For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'

(Proverbs 10:19) In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

(Proverbs 18:2) A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

(Proverbs 17:27-28) He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

The lesson James is conveying here is, “self-righteous” wrath, *no matter how sincere*, will never “produce” the “righteousness of God!” Self-righteousness - only produces a *sense* of “elitism,” which is a “distortion” of the gospel!

Morality - (v.21)

all filthiness: dishonor, defile; **overflow of wickedness**: evil, trouble, desire to injure.

Receive – *dechomai* (*dehk-omi*) – take with the hand, intercourse, or friendship; make one's own.

Implanted – inborn.

(John 15:8) "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

(Matthew 15:8-9) "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

(Hosea 6:1) Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

Activation – (v.22-25)

(Luke 9:62) But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

(Isaiah 66:2) "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

Continue – parameno; always near, to remain alive.

(1 John 1:6-7) If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

(v.26, 27)

religion - threkos meaning: worship of God, to tremble.

religion – theskeia means: religious discipline.

“unspotted” – speaks of being censured, severe disapproval.

CONCLUSION:

“Conduct befitting” is forged through communion with Christ!

(Acts 4:13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.