

James: Introduction

1. Authorship and Date

- A. Historically, the author is identified as James, the _____ of Jesus.
- B. The writing is thought to be before the _____ Council around A.D. 48.

2. The Teaching of James

A. Suffering

- Suffering is a sign of God's _____ in the life of a believer.

B. Sin

- Sin has two sources _____ and _____.

C. Christology

- Jesus is _____ and _____.

D. The Poor

- James is concerned with the _____ of the vulnerable.

E. Wisdom

- Wisdom comes from _____ and we are to ask for it.

3. James' Relevance

- A. James is an intensely _____ book of the Bible.

Example - Who are the vulnerable in our culture?

- B. James called the church to true _____.

4. Outline

Address and Greeting ([James 1:1](#))

A. Building Christian Maturity ([James 1:2-27](#))

i. Trials and Temptations ([James 1:2-11](#))

ii. The Evil Desire ([James 1:12-18](#))

iii. True Religion is Compassion in Action ([James 1:19-27](#))

B. Build a Healthy Community ([James 2:1-5:18](#))

- i. The Effects of Sickness ([James 2:1-26](#))
 - a. Sin of Favoritism ([James 2:1-13](#))
 - b. Faith and Deeds ([James 2:14-26](#))
- ii. The Source of Sickness ([James 3:1-18](#))
 - a. Teachers and Tongues ([James 3:1-12](#))
 - b. True and False Wisdom ([James 3:13-18](#))
- iii. Symptoms and Antidote ([James 4:1-5:18](#))
 - a. Friendship with the World ([James 4:1-10](#))
 - b. Slander and the Desire for Money ([James 4:11-17](#))
 - c. The Corrosive Power of Wealth ([James 5:1-6](#))
 - d. Patience in the Face of Suffering ([James 5:7-11](#))
 - e. The Prayer of Faith ([James 5:12-18](#))

Conclusion: The Forgiveness of God ([James 5:19-20](#))

Discussion Questions

1. How does James' role in early Christianity influence your understanding of the text?
2. How does the historical context of James' authorship, potentially before the Jerusalem Council, shape the way we interpret the letter's focus and audience?
3. James views suffering as a sign of God's activity in a believer's life. How does this perspective challenge or encourage modern Christians facing trials?
4. James emphasizes concern for the poor and vulnerable. How can the modern church reflect this concern in contexts where poverty may look different than in the ancient world?
5. In what ways can the divisiveness and favoritism James addressed in the early church mirror challenges faced by churches today?
6. How can we identify and address the "vulnerable" in our society without making assumptions about their needs or circumstances?
7. What practical steps can churches take to foster true community and eliminate the "walls" of division and segregation James warned against?