

# Christ·ian·ly

***adjective & adverb***

**(a) adjective** characteristic of or benefitting a Christian; **(b) adverb** in a Christianly manner.

Chris·tian·ly  
James 1:1–18

Today what Christianity is is often confused and distorted. Imperfect people with imperfect beliefs and imperfect actions have caused many to look upon Christianity with contempt. But few people take issue with Jesus. While Christians are imperfect people, they follow a perfect Jesus. So, what does it really mean to follow Jesus? What does it mean to be a Christian. Join Vintage Church as we learn from the brother of Jesus, James, and discover what it means to live Christianly.

We began our walk through James by looking at this spiritual equation James provides us for spiritual maturity: Challenges+Wisdom+Endurance=Maturity

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

## James 1:1–18

**1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

**2** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**9** Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10** and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. **12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. **13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. **14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

**16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- James tells us to “count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds” (v. 2). How do you generally view and understand challenges you face in life?
- How does God use challenges to help us become more mature?
- What do you need to do to better embrace the challenges you face?
- James also tells us to ask God if we lack wisdom (vv. 5-8). According to Scripture, what is wisdom? How is it different from intelligence?
- What challenging situations are you in that require wisdom from God?
- How can we pray for one another for that wisdom? Stop what you’re doing and pray now. Ask God to give each of you the wisdom you need.

- James tells us “the testing of our faith produces steadfastness” (v. 3). Think about your own challenging situations. How long are you willing to endure? Why?
- Why should we not give up when facing a challenging situation? Think about this from the theological angle (e.g., who God is, what he can do) and also on the practical angle (e.g., what endurance produces in us).
- James tells us the end result of challenges+wisdom+endurance is maturity (v. 4). What does biblical maturity look like?
- How does the world’s vision of maturity compared to the Bible’s vision?
- What is your vision for maturity and what steps are you taking to arrive at that maturity?