

# Christ·ian·ly

***adjective & adverb***

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

Chris·tian·ly  
James 3:1–18

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.

James' practical teaching of wisdom continues with a discussion on our words. If we are living Christianly we will pursue peace. Peace pursued in peaceful ways leads to peace.

- 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 3:1–18

**3** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

**13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- Why should the church be a place of peace and Christians be people of peace?
- Share a time when you experienced the power of words, either positively or negatively? What happened and what did the experience teach you about words?
- Why are our words and the words of other so powerful?
- How are you using your words for peace?
- James tells us our words are so powerful they can cause severe damage. How does James say our words cause damage?
- How do you need to repent and seek forgiveness for your words?

- James ties the damage of our words to selfishness. Why does James say selfishness is evil?
- What are the signs or characteristics of selfishness?
- How do you move from selfishness to selflessness?
- As you reflect on selfishness, how is your heart?
- James tells us that the way to pursue peace is through the power of wisdom? Where does wisdom come from? Why is this source important in pursuing peace?
- How is wisdom characterized according to James? How does this help us tell the difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom?
- How are you pursuing peace?