

Christ·ian·ly

adjective & adverb

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

Chris·tian·ly
James 4:1–12

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 continues his emphasis on not just believing but doing. His emphasis continues with on how we treat one another. But now James gets to the heart of the issue. We live wisely when our lives are directed toward God and second toward other people.

- 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 4:1–12

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

- Return to James 3:13-18. Why is the kind of wisdom, worldly vs. godly, the source of our behavior?
- James says “our passions are at war within” us? What are our passions, and what does James mean that they are at war within us?
- What does James say our response to our sin be? (See verses 7-10).
- Why must God be the first object of wisdom?
- Why are people then the second object of wisdom?
- According to James, why should we not speak evil against one another?
- What are some examples of the opposite of speaking evil against one another
- What standard are you living by?
- In what area of your life do you need to draw near to God?