

TITLE: James (Lesson 6)

TEXT: James 1:16-21

INTRO: “The most blatant divergence from biblical teaching is the assertion that morals are relative and our only rule for right behavior is love. Under such a moral philosophy, virtually anything is acceptable and should be tolerated if it involves the mutual consent of those involved. This is a wholesale rejection of the moral law of God and its replacement with emotional subjectivism.” *Reformed Systematic Theology*

- I. (vs. 16) “Stop being deceived...”
  - A. Don’t be deceived about the source of temptation or the goodness of God.
  - B. We must take accountability for our sin and recognize our hope in God.

NOTE: The guilt and shame of our sin would lead us to despair if not for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Isa. 53:6; I John 1:9

- II. (vs. 17-18) God is the source of everything good.
  - A. Consider the gifts that God gives.

NOTE: Two Greek words are used for *gift*. The first refers to the act of giving, the second to the object given. Acts. 20:35 God’s gifts are *perfect* for us.

- B. Consider the Giver.
  - 1. “Father of lights” the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars.
  - 2. Unlike the heavenly bodies, God does not change.
  - 3. God is sovereign and active. “Of his own will”
- C. Consider the gift of salvation.

- 1. “begat he us with the word of truth”

NOTE: God uses Scripture to point us to Christ. Col. 1:5; I Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:23-25

- 2. Believers are “a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

NOTE: O.T. expression of the first fruits of the harvest given to honor God trusting Him for the full harvest. I Cor. 15:20-23; Rom. 8:22-23

- III. (vs. 19-21) God has given us His Word.
  - A. “be swift to hear”

NOTE: Have a heart in tune with God. Matt. 11:15

- B. “slow to speak”

NOTE: Sometimes we have a tendency to offer excuses and argue. 2 Tim. 2:15

- C. “slow to wrath”

NOTE: Sometimes anger comes from being confronted with our sin. Anger is ultimately directed toward God’s Word and God’s will for our lives. See verse 20.

- 1. Anger and rebellion hinders the work of God in our lives.

- D. “receive with meekness the engrafted word”

- 1. Get rid of the moral filth that defiles.
- 2. Clean out the abundance of wickedness.

NOTE: **superfluity**: Used by the Greeks to describe the excess wax in their ears.

- 3. Humbly accept God’s Word and make it part of your life.

NOTE: We prepare the spiritual soil of our lives by removing the sin. Grow in the Word.