



Life Group Questions

Faith Obeys the Word

James 1:19-27

January 22, 2017

Topics James covered in this section are: anger, listening, obeying, and being blessed.

- From whence do all of the Old Testament commands originate?¹ Why does that matter?
- What did Jews consider to be “Religion”?
- Please read 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8, Psalm 51:16-19, Isaiah 1:11; Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (note...these are ALL Old Testament passages. Contrary to popular claims, the OT was not works-based religion, but like the NT a system that God set up to save His people by grace through faith—based on a Covenant relationship).
- Based on the above passages, what does God consider to be “Religion”?
- What is the difference between religion and a covenant-based love relationship?
- Why does God emphasize compassion, generosity, protection, and oversight towards widows and orphans?²
- What are some of the differences between human anger³ and God’s anger?⁴
- Should we ever be angry? If so, at what?
- What is righteous indignation and what does it look like?
- When is our anger sinful?

Being Quick to hear...

- What types of things are difficult to hear?
- Why?
- What helps you to be able to stomach these conversations more readily?
- Please brainstorm with your group practical ways to compensate or help make these difficult conversations more manageable. What works for you? Remember “An angry response nullifies the benefits of a position of moral authority.”⁵

Obedience matters – why?⁶

- How many commands are found in James 1:19-27? What are they?⁷
- What does the following statement mean, “None of your works matter unto justification, but all of your works matter unto sanctification?” Bonus, how then does this statement play into your understanding of Phil 2:12?⁸
- Shameless plug: If you’d like to either learn how to or sharpen your ability to share your faith, I’d like to invite you to the Evangelism Seminar on Friday evening, January 27, from 6:30-9:30 pm mefchurch.org/teaching-seminars.
- Here are some scriptural reasons to consider sharing your faith as a joy-filled response to your love relationship (ie. obedience) - <http://www.challies.com/resources/7-scripture-texts-about-evangelism>
- What is encouraging about this passage?
- How can you apply it to your prayer life?

FOOTNOTE:

¹ Our covenantal – i.e., Love-relationship with God.

² Psalm 68:5;

³ Examples of negative anger (Simeon and Levi, Saul, Jonah).

⁴ Examples of positive anger...

- God the Father – Deut 6:15; Ex 4:14; Num 32:10-13; Heb 3:11
- Moses against Pharaoh – Ex 11:8
- Psalmist against evil and injustice (Ps 59:11; 69:28)
- Jesus – MARK 3:5; Mt 21:12–13; Jn 2:14–16; Rev. 19:15

⁵ David P. Nystrom, *James*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997), 106.

⁶ Phil 2:8-11; Rom 5:19; Matt 26:39, Luke 6:46-49; 11:27-28; JOHN 14:21-24; 15:10-14; 1 Jn 5:2-5

⁷ Commands:

1. “Know” – James 1:19
2. “Be” – James 1:19
3. “Receive” – James 1:21
4. “Be” – James 1:22

⁸ Hint – what are the three phases of Salvation?

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