

BEING ON GOOD TERMS

Int.

1. Aim: To show that in order to be on better terms with man we must practice the law of love toward all men.

2. Text. - Jas. 4:11-12 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of [his] brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. 12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

3. Gen. 2:18

a. God created man to be a social being, so we could live among other people

b. We all need moments to be alone, but very little of our life will be spent entirely alone.

c. We must learn how to live with each other. Jn. 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

4. Man has not always lived peaceably together

a. First two brothers had some problems - Cain & Abel

b. Jacob and Esau had their problems

c. Many today have problems getting along

(1) Married couples often fuss and fight and quarrel

(2) Parents and children have difficulties living together

(3) Neighbors sometimes have quarrels and fights

(4) Sometimes even brethren have fusses and fights with each other

5. God's laws can help us be on better terms with our fellow man - Jas. 4:11-12 gives us some instructions on how to live with each other more peaceably.

Discussion**I. BEING ON BETTER TERMS BY NOT SPEAKING EVIL OF HIM**

- A. Speak no evil one against another, brethren
1. Meaning
 - a. Harsh words about those absent - talking behind their back - slander
 - b. It means to criticize, to talk against each other, or about one another
 - c. It means to run each other down to say careless, thoughtless things to degrade one another
 - d. A person has heard some rumors, hearsay, and they believe them
 2. The more you criticize a person the less you think of them
 - a. To get on bad terms with anyone, just become highly critical of them
 - b. If you constantly speak evil of another person you are not going to be on good terms with that person
 3. Often criticize others because we feel superior to them.
 4. Sometimes we are critical of others because they are not like us
 - a. We do not all think or do things exactly the same way
 - b. But this is no reason to criticize another.
 - c. We could be mistaken about the other person
 - d. ILL. "A traveler once saw a man in a chair in his garden, hoeing. The traveler laughed. He thought it was a case of monumental laziness. But he happened to look back as he laughed, and he saw a pair of crutches laying on the ground by the old man's chair. At once what made him seem ridiculous before made him seem heroic now."

5. The passage here in Jas. 4:11-12 condemns not only the habit of speaking evil but the desire or thoughts to do so. - We think evil before we speak evil !

a. Quit this evil speaking is the command!!!

b. Why? We are brethren

(1) We will be on better terms if we put away the evil speaking, murmuring, backbiting.

(2) Then we will grow in favor with our fellow man

B. We become a judge

1. To speak evil of our brother condemns the law

a. It condemns the law of God which teaches that we are to love one another

b. We are saying that the law of love is a bad law and can be ignored or disobeyed.

c. One violates the law of love when he constantly speaks against his brother - because if we love him we cannot constantly tear him apart.

2. When we constantly disobey a certain law, it is natural for us to attack the law because it forbids what we like to do.

3. We are saying that the law has no business protecting our brother.

4. A lack of love is the reason for evil speaking

5. The Bible says we are to be doers of the law not the judges or critics!!

II. BEING ON BETTER TERMS WITH MAN THROUGH LOVING HIM

- A. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" Jas. 2:8
1. This is the finest law for men to be on better terms
 2. Golden rule - Mt. 7:12
 3. Love will cover the sins
 - a. 1 Pet. 4:8 ASV above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves; for love covereth a multitude of sins:
 - b. Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.
 4. This will give the other person "the benefit of the doubt"
 - a. We need it from others
 - b. Let us be always happy to give it to others
 - c. Some people get all their exercise by jumping to conclusion
- B. Some love only themselves
1. They leave out the middle part of Jas. 2:8 and read it "Thou shalt love thyself."
 2. This self praise and love causes us to look down on others
 3. Praise of self results in criticism of others
 4. ILL. "Myself and my Son" "The world is not worth 30 righteous persons such as our father Abraham. If there were only 30 righteous persons in the world, I and my son should make 2 of them, and if there were only 20, I and my son should be of the number; and if there were only 10, I and my son should be of them; and if there were only five, I and my son should be of them; and if there were but two, I and my son would be those two; and if there were but one, myself should be that one."

- C. The N.T. mentions love for being on better terms with one another
1. Rom. 12:10 [Be] kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
 2. Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
 3. Phil. 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- D. When we do these things then we can be assured of better feelings toward one another.

III. BEING ON BETTER TERMS WITH MAN THROUGH BEING AT PEACE WITH HIM

- A. Rom. 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
1. Christians are not to be agitators and trouble makers
 2. Peter's advice is: 1 Pet. 3:10-12 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew[turn away] evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil.
- B. What if someone does us wrong?
1. We will have some who will always do wrong.
 2. We are not to declare little wars against them

3. We are to try our very best to be at peace in [1] the home [2] the community and [3] the church
 4. If anyone wrongs us, then let God take the vengeance.
 - a. It belongs to him anyway
 - b. He says "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." Rom. 12:19
 - c. He will do it right. He will do a better job!
- C. Let God be the Judge -
1. Jas. 4:12 There is one lawgiver and judge
 2. God wants help from his followers in some of the work, but there is one task he has reserved from himself, and that is JUDGING.
 3. Many Christians are eager to help God in judging. Often this is the only thing they will do!!
 4. III. A man told the preacher that his only talent was in judging. The preacher advised the man to do with it what the one talent man did with his talent, bury it!!
- D. We must desire peace - III. Of man who did not want peace "Caleb Young, who lived in Kentucky, thought that a man in the State prison, who was serving a life term, had been too heavily sentenced. Bringing influence to bear upon the governor, he obtained a pardon for the man. He went to the prison and had a talk with the man. He said to him, "If you were released from this place, what would you do?" The man vindictively replied, "I would go and shoot the judge that sentenced me, the lawyer that prosecuted me, and the witness that testified against me." Mr. Young said nothing to the man about the pardon. He went out of the prison and tore the pardon to pieces."
- E. Matt. 6:9-15

F. Mt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers."

1. Problems sometimes need to be settled.
2. If we have problems with another than seek a peacemaker and get the difficulty resolved.
3. Problems arose in the church at Jerusalem over the unfair distribution of food for the widows. This was brought to the attention of the teachers and leaders and the matter was resolved. Acts 6
4. Let us seek peace with our fellow man and pursue it

Conclusion

1. No man lives unto himself or dies unto himself
2. When the hour of death comes, how sweet it will be if we are found to be on the best of terms with our fellow man and to be welcomed by our eternal Father into an everlasting home.
3. 1 John 4:20-21 - Love God then love the brethren
3. We have peace with God through Christ!
 - A. Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord

Jesus Christ:

- b. Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.