

Submission To God, ~ 7-10.

In this brief ¶, ~ a rapid-fire salvo of 8 impvs.

▶▶ But not disconnected commands.

▶▶ The 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ~ are basically the same, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the 8<sup>th</sup> using diff. wds. ~ and adding the result of submission to God.

These 2 impvs bracket the other 6, ~ and indicate ~ ¶¶

▶▶ that submission to God ~ is the theme of this brief ¶.

▶▶ The intervening 6 impvs ~ spell out ~ what submission to God entails.

I.e., ~ these are required ~ as a necessary accompaniment ~ to a claim of submission to him.

▶▶ IOW, ~ this is what submission to God looks like ~ in real life.

▷▷ I.e., ~ These behaviors will be evident in a life of one truly submitted to God.

We can also look at it from a different angle.

▶▶ Obeying these 6 commands ~ proves one's claim to have submitted themselves to God.

▷▷ On the flipside, ~ lack of obedience ~ proves the submission claim bogus. 1/14

As noted, ~ to submit to God means ~ to place ourselves under his authority, ~ 77

▶▶ and therefore ~ to commit ourselves to obey him ~ in all things.

▶▶ TPID, ~ submission to God ~ is living a life ~ that continually expresses to him, ~ 77

▷▷ not my will, ~ but yours be done.

Last time, ~ looked at the 1<sup>st</sup> impv & topic sentence, ~ Submit yourselves therefore to God.

▶▶ Also 1<sup>st</sup> 2 things that submission to God entails.

▷▷ Resisting temptation & prayer. ⇔⇔ Each followed by promise.

Now let's finish studying what submission to God entails.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Impv. ~ Shows It Entails ~ Changing Actions.

<sup>8c</sup> Cleanse your hands, you sinners.

▶▶ The language James uses is very blunt.

▷▷ Literally ~ Cleanse hands, sinners. ⇔⇔ Pronouns your & you added.

▶▶ Once again, ~ James uses attention-grabbing language ~ 77

▷▷ to wake us up to the seriousness ~ of what he's discussing.

▶▶ As said a number of times, ~ James is very tough on his original readers and us. 2/14

▶▶ But he is writing out of love.

▶▶ And therefore, ~ has our best interests at heart.

▶▶ Holy Spirit inspired this out of love and also has our best interest at heart.

Cleanse hands = Figuratively.

▶▶ When he calls for his readers to wash their hands, ~ he wants us to ~ 77

▷▷ get rid ~ of all sinful habits ~ and live godly lives.

▶▶ Expressed as, ~ *Make your lives pure* ~ or ~ *Clean up your lives*.

Paul notes the same thing in Titus 2:11-12.

▶▶ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

▶▶ Saving grace ~ teaches its recipients ~ to say ~ no to sin ~ and yes to godliness.

▶▶ *In the present age* ~ stresses that this godliness ~ is to be lived out ~ in the here and now.

1 Pet. 1:14-16, ~ NIV.

▶▶ *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."* 3/14

▷▷Peter ~ here ~ is issuing a call to believers ~ to totally leave our unsaved way of life behind.

▶▶**Be holy** ~ means to live a life ~ that pleases and glorifies God.

▷▷Instead of continuing in the sinful lifestyle of our unsaved life, ~ 77

↳↳Christians are to ~ conform our behavior ~ to our new status ~ of being new creations in Christ.

▶▶Notice, ~ we are to live a life that pleases and glorifies God ~ in all our behavior, ~ 77

▷▷not just when we're with other believers.

▷▷Peter is saying ~ that holiness is to involve ~ 77

↳↳every aspect and department of our lives, ~ every detail of our lives, ~ every habit of our lives.

▶▶And Peter tells us ~ that the standard of holiness we are to follow is ~ 77

▷▷not my holiness or your holiness, ~ but God's holiness.

▷▷Peter says, ~ **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

▷▷God's holiness sets the standard for how Christians are to behave ~ 77

↳↳at all times, ~ and in all places, ~ and in all situations. 4/14

More to James' point in this brief paragraph, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ getting rid of all sinful habits ~ and living godly lives ~ accompanies true submission to God.

▷▷ Proves one's claim of submission to Jesus.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Impv. ~ Shows Submission to God Entails ~ A Single-Minded Commitment To Him.

<sup>8d</sup> And purify your hearts, you double-minded.

▶▶ Just as blunt.

▷▷ Literally, ~ Purify hearts, double-minded.

▶▶ Here James is calling us to a ~ single-minded commitment ~ to God.

▶▶ And he's indicating that ~ a single-minded commitment to God ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is a sign of true submission to him.

The closest context circle to help us more fully understand what James is getting at, ~ is his talk on sp. adultery.

▶▶ Most likely, ~ he's targeting here ~ those who want to embrace ~ both Jesus and the world.

▶▶ They are double-minded.

▶▶ Their minds ~ are contaminated. 5/14

▶▶ They have not purified their minds in the sense that ~ 77

▷▷ they have ~ an exclusive loyalty and love ~ for Jesus.

Elijah dealt with double-mindedness in his day.

▶▶ 1 Kings 18:21, ~ NIV, ~ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

▶▶ Elijah stood before them ~ and challenged them ~ to end their doublemindedness, ~ 77

▷▷ wavering between two opinions.

▶▶ It was not good ~ to try to ~ "walk the fence" ~ worshiping 2 gods.

▶▶ Apparently the Israelites thought that if God let them down ~ 77

▷▷ they could turn to Baal, ~ and vice versa.

▶▶ Elijah was saying that if ~ one is the true God ~ and the other false ~ 77

▷▷ they should follow the true one wholeheartedly ~ 77

↪↪ and forget about the powerless impostor.

▶▶ Believers who want to be friends both ~ with Jesus and the world ~ need to learn this lesson.

▷▷ The world ~ is a false god, ~ a powerless imposter. 6/14

▷▷ Jesus ~ is the One true God.

▷▷ And his people ~ should forget about the powerless imposter ~ 77

↪↪ and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

▶▶ Elijah's challenge to God's people ~ is just as relevant today ~ as it was when he issued it.

▷▷ How long ~ will you waver between two opinions?

I believe ~ Paul's exhortation in Rom. 12:2a is related to this.

▶▶ Because, ~ I would suggest ~ that it takes a renewal of our minds ~ in order ~ 77

▷▷ to help us develop ~ a single-minded commitment to God.

▶▶ Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

▶▶ The antidote for conformity to the world ~ is to be transformed ~ by the renewing of our mind.

▶▶ When believers offer their entire self to God, ~ 77

▷▷ a change will happen in their relation to the world.

↪↪ Christians are called to a different life-style ~ 77

→→ than what the world offers with its behavior and customs. 7/14

▶▶ But refusing to conform to this world's values ~ 77

▷▷ must go even deeper ~ than the level of behavior and customs.

▷▷ It must be firmly planted in our minds.

↳↳ Be transformed ~ by the renewal of your mind.

▶▶ The Grk. word for ~ be transformed ~ has given us the English ~ metamorphosis.

▷▷ Believers are to experience ~ a complete transformation ~ from the inside out.

▶▶ And the change ~ must begin in the mind, ~ where all thoughts and actions begin.

▶▶ One of the keys, ~ then, ~ to the Christian life ~ is to be involved in activities ~ that renew the mind.

▷▷ Renewal refers ~ to a new way of thinking.

↳↳ I.e., ~ a mind ~ desiring to be conformed to God ~ rather than to the world.

→→ A mind ~ that is single-mindedly ~ committed to God.

▶▶ Much of the renewal work is done by the Holy Spirit within us.

▷▷ And the tool ~ he most frequently uses ~ is God's Word.

▷▷ As we ~ meditate upon, ~ read, ~ & study ~ God's Word, ~ 77

↳↳ he works w/in us & our way of thinking changes. Ps. 119:9, 11, 97-98. 8/14



▷▷ As we renew our minds, ~ we will begin to see the world clearly ~ for what it really is.

Back to James.

▶▶ Remember that James reminded us ~ 77

▷▷ that God intensely desires his peoples' undivided loyalty and love, ~ 77

↳↳ that he expects this exclusivity ~ 77

→→ and ~ that he tolerates no rivals for our undivided loyalty and love.

▶▶ Logical conclusion is that ~ not giving him this exclusivity ~ is sp. adultery.

▶▶ We went on to say ~ that God has a right to this exclusivity ~ 77

▷▷ both ~ as our ~ Creator ~ and ~ as our Savior and Lord.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ we said ~ that he deserves this exclusive loyalty and love ~ 77

▷▷ because of what he's done for us.

↳↳ Not to give him ~ this exclusivity ~ is a slap in his face ~ 77

→→ and shows ingratitude and disrespect toward him.

Since trying to have both God and the world ~ is sp. adultery, ~ it makes sense ~ 77

▷▷ that a single-minded commitment to Jesus ~ is a sign of true submission to him. 9/14

The 6<sup>th</sup> And 7<sup>th</sup> Impvs. Show Submission to God Entails ~ Genuine Repentance (vs. 9, ~ NASB).

**NASB:** <sup>9a</sup> Be miserable and mourn and weep; <sup>9b</sup> let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

▶▶ Christians who sin ~ are not to take it lightly.

▶▶ Repentance ~ is of central importance in the life of a believer.

▷▷ It's of principal importance ~ because sin brings God's discipline.

↪↪ Plus, ~ fellowship with God is only possible through full and sincere repentance.

Three terms in the 6<sup>th</sup> impv (9a) depict the appropriate response when we sin.

▶▶ **Be miserable** ~ describes the sense of ~ great unhappiness ~ 77

▷▷ that sinning should produce in the lives of those who have been redeemed.

▶▶ **Mourn** ~ specifies ~ the grieving and sorrow ~ that a repentant sinner should experience.

▶▶ **Weep** ~ adds the element of an outward display of sorrow.

▶▶ It is obvious ~ that James is calling for genuine repentance, ~ 77

▷▷ and not some ~ casual apology ~ or ~ mild expression of regret.

Now, ~ I don't think ~ that this is a comprehensive list ~ of what makes up genuine repentance.

▶▶ Don't think it's a checklist for that either. 10/14

▶▶ Believe it's a representative list.

▶▶ No doubt there are other signs ~ of genuine repentance.

▶▶ Basically, ~ genuine repentance is ~ a change of mind ~ leading to a change of action.

▷▷ It involves ~ a sincere turning from sin to serve God ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and includes ~ sorrow for, and confession of, ~ sin ~ ¶¶

→→ and where possible ~ restitution.

▶▶ James' point being here, ~ genuine repentance ~ is an indication ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that one's claim of being totally submitted to God ~ is valid.

That James is calling for genuine repentance ~ is reinforced ~ by the 7<sup>th</sup> impv (9b).

▶▶ Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom.

▶▶ There are times in life ~ when laughter is inappropriate.

▶▶ The OT speaks of ~ the laughter of the fool (Eccles. 7:6).

▶▶ And the OT indicates ~ that loud cries of joy and mirth ~ are not compatible with a state of genuine repentance.

▷▷ Jer. 16:9, ~ For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will silence in this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. 11/14

▷▷ Here God explains ~ that joyful times such as weddings ~ will cease ~ as the judgment descends on Judah.

▶▶ This does not contradict the NT teaching ~ that rejoicing ~ should be the Christian's continuing experience.

▷▷ E.g., ~ 1 Thess. 5:16, ~ Rejoice always.

▶▶ Rather, ~ James is addressing ~ the abnormal situation when ~ 77

▷▷ sin has gained a foothold ~ and repentance is required.

▶▶ IOW, ~ the call ~ to let our laughter be turned into mourning, and our joy to gloom, ~ 77

▷▷ is a call ~ not to treat repentance ~ in a flippant manner.

↪↪ If we do, ~ it shows that we are not truly sorry for our sins.

Related to this, ~ we are not ~ to treat sin itself in a flippant manner. ⇔⇔ World does that.

▶▶ God's people ~ are to take it as seriously as he takes it.

▷▷ And he takes sin, ~ all sin, ~ very seriously.

▶▶ No sin is ~ to be taken lightly ~ or ~ to be treated in a flippant manner.

▶▶ In God's eyes, ~ there is no such thing ~ as a minor or insignificant sin.

▷▷ E.g., ~ no such thing as ~ "little white lies." 12/14

Genuine repentance for sin ~ will accompany ~ a genuine claim ~ of complete submission to God.

▶▶It will be a natural outflow of it.

In this matter, ~ though, ~ we need to remember John's encouraging words.

▶▶If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

▶▶And, ~ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One (NIV).

Heb. adds more encouraging words, ~~ 7:23-25 (NIV).

▶▶Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

In Vs 10, ~ James Draws His Exposition On Submission To God To A Close.

He does so, ~ by repeating the topic impv in diff. wds ~ and adding a result of submission to God.

▶▶8<sup>th</sup> & final impv.

▷▷Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

▷▷The clause ~ He will exalt you ~ may be rendered ~ 77

↪↪He will give you honor ~ or ~ He will honor you. 13/14

James does not say how.

▶▶ But he says that ~ when we genuinely and wholeheartedly submit ourselves to God, ~ he will honor us.

▶▶ And whatever it is, ~ it will be great!

▶▶ So, ~ as we close, ~ the question for us ~ is this.

▷▷ Who ~ would we rather receive honor from, ~ the world ~ or Jesus? 14/14