

“The Great Divorce”

James 1: 19-37

The divorce is not the kind that occurs between a husband and wife, but the kind that occurs in a Christian between hearing the Word and living the Word. So far James has dealt with trials (1:1-2) and temptations (13-18). Now he comes to the basic theme behind his letter -- the importance of behaving as we say we believe. He's asking us to take a good look at ourselves in the Mirror of God's Word.

Hearing the Word and living the Word occurs when we are:

- Quick to listen to the Word of God.
- Slow to speak....and slow to become angry.
- Getting rid of all moral filth and humbly accepting the Word.
 - Such action saves us from all kinds of trouble.

Acting on what we have heard.

- There are two kinds of people - the wise and the foolish. Matthew 7:24ff
 - The foolish merely listen.
 - The wise hear the Word and do it. Such people are blessed: Deut. 11:26-28; Psalm 119:72; Proverbs 3:13-18.

There is no divorce when we are hearing and living the Word of God.

Our tongue, our concern for others, and our Christian uniqueness in a fallen world, our walk with Christ will match our talk.

Have you experienced times in your spiritual life when your confession and practice were in conflict?

- Thank God for His grace. I John 1:7b
- Thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit who enables us to close the gap between hearing and living the Word.