

James 3:1-2: The Power and Peril of Teachers

Let's look first at what v. 1 does NOT intend

1. To make you feel this message is not for you because you're not a "teacher."
2. To teach that any true believers in Christ will experience *condemnation* from God on judgment day.
3. To discourage teachers in general, whether volunteers or teachers by profession, Sunday School or secular teachers.
4. A better translation is not *condemnation*, but ***strict evaluation/judgment***; i.e., greater scrutiny for those with greater knowledge; or, as Jesus said it: "to whom much is given, much is required."
5. To keep any from the Great Commission (*make disciples ... teaching them ...* all of us are to be "teachers" in that sense).
6. To discourage moms or dads teaching at home. The Bible calls all fathers especially to be "teachers" of their children.
7. This is not intended to make Sunday School teachers quit after the message.

What DOES v. 1 intend by "Let not many become teachers"?

1. Understand what teachers taught in Biblical times.
 - Luke 2:40, 51-52
 - Matthew 23:1-12
 - James 3:1 paraphrase

"Brothers and sisters, God has not seen fit to call many of us to be teachers. Don't be in a hurry to be teachers ...
 - Be content with whatever gifts and calling God gives to you. Don't try to be what you are not; joyfully be what God has called you to be. Use your gifts in ministry [and ministry can be behind the scenes] to others and to the glory of God.

Applications from v. 1-2

1. Recognize your sins of speech and the only solution.
 - 1 Peter 2:21-25
 - 1 Peter 3:1-10
 - Hebrews 13:7
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13
2. A Pastor's Prayer Requests
 - a. **Humility** - that I would be constantly fighting personal pride and cultivating humility, and striving to spread a high view of God and low view of self.

- b. **Dependence upon God** - that my prayer life would increase and deepen, and that I would prevail with God to give men faith and repentance so that I can prevail with men to believe and repent!
- c. **Compassion** - that I would be sensitive to and sincerely troubled by what troubles you, and have discernment to deal with real issues rather than symptoms, and courage to speak the truth in love.
- d. **Balance** - that I would have God's grace to balance time and care to my wife and family, as well as the vital shepherding of this church family, and that my life and teaching would never be imbalanced, as "the holy Bible is wholly taught."
- e. **Patience and Wisdom**- that I would have much of God's wisdom to guide our every step in leading this precious flock, and that I would have patience with those who disagree, as we grow together.
- f. **Pure Motives** - that I would be motivated by the prospect of the glory of Christ and not by self-interest.
- g. **Diligence & Hard Work** - that I would discipline myself for painstaking labors and hours deep in study, because God's Word deserves it and God's people need meat to grow.
- h. **Doctrinal Stability** - that I would stand unwaveringly on sound theological truth, with discernment to avoid frivolous discussions, needless debates, and unprofitable controversies that veil the beauty of Christ.
- i. **Meekness Towards Men** - that I would have such confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture that I need not be quarrelsome or harsh.
- j. **Zeal**- that the truth would affect my soul first before I ever present it to you and that my passion will be genuine and contagious.
- k. **Clarity and Power of Teaching** - that I would have the Spirit's empowering to make clear the supremacy of God's glory by the exposition of His word, with accurate application toward life-transformation.