

Temptation and the Goodness of God

James 1:13-18

A. The Wrong Response to Testing (1:13)

1. The warning: *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’”*

- a. Although God is _____ over all creation, bad things are not God’s fault.
- b. The option for those who suffer is to either _____ God or seek God’s perspective.

2. The reasons: *“for...”*

- a. *“God cannot be tempted by evil”* – God is _____ and impeccable.
- b. *“He Himself does not tempt anyone”* – God is pure in His _____ for all people.

** Why does God test His children?*

B. The Heart of Man Leads to Death (1:14-15)

1. The pull: *“drawn away by his own desires and enticed”*

- a. When you fail the tests of life, it is not God’s fault, but _____ desires led you astray.
- b. The value of this truth: Instead of thinking of God as a problem, when we see our problem is first of all internal, then we can look to God for _____.

2. The choice: *“when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin”*

- a. Having desire is not wrong. But, when desire for something wrong is _____ with a choice to satisfy the desire outside of God’s revealed will, this is sin.
- b. The value of this truth: If we know that choosing sides against our _____ is part of our testing, we can clearly see our endurance tests from God’s perspective.

3. The consequence: *“sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death”*

- a. This is a general principle: outside of God’s will, things tend to break down.
 - Sin is the reason for _____ death, the separation of a person from God (Gen. 2:17, Rom. 5:12, Eph. 2:1, Rev. 20:11-15)
 - Sin is the reason for _____ death, the separation of a person’s soul & spirit from their body (Gen. 2:17, 3:17-19, 4:8, 5:1-8))
 - Sin is the reason for _____ death, the separation of a child of God from a right fellowship with God (Rom. 8:6, James 5:19-20)
- b. How is James appealing to the mind of the child of God?
 - _____ interpretation: This passage cannot teach that a child of God would suffer eternal, spiritual death due to sin. Christ took away the guilt our sin and gave us His righteousness. (John 3:16, Isaiah 53:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - Plausible interpretation: When God decides sin has gone too far, He may execute the _____ action on a believer by causing his physical death. (Acts 5:1-11, 1 Cor. 11:28-30, & 1 John 5:16-17)
 - Preferred interpretation: When a believer sins in any way, he experiences a temporal, _____ death, and his fellowship with God is interrupted; When a believer sins by blaming God for his troubles, he is not at the same time drawing near to God. (1 John 1:5-9, James 4:6-8, & James 5:19-20)

C. The Heart of God Leads to Life (1:16-18)

1. The warning: *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”*

- a. From the context (in verse 13), the specific deception that James is writing about is when a child of God believes the _____ that God is working against him or her.

2. The affirmation of God’s Character: He is always, only, good.

- a. *“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above”* – All God _____ is good.
- b. *“no variation or shadow of turning”* - God does not _____ – He is immutable. Thus, I know that He is still good today.
- c. Prime _____ of God’s goodness: *“Of His own will he brought us forth by the word of truth.”* – God has proven His love for you. (Romans 5:8, 8:32)
- d. God’s desire in bringing us forth: *“that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”* – God saved us in order to give us an immense _____.