

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

CURSING MEN

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART THIRTY FIVE OF SIXTY FOUR*

Speech that is not Christ-like comes from an evil heart. An uncontrolled tongue is incompatible with faith in Jesus. It is evidence of a vain religion (James 1:26). Many, however, feel that the only speech that is really corrupt is that which takes the Lord's name in vain.

Surely profaning the name of God is a heinous sin, but so is cursing men. "Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of God" (James 3:9). Perhaps James had heard church members curse those who differed with them. If not, he recognized the probability of such cursing by some. He seeks to point out the evil in cursing men by reminding us that man is "made after the likeness of God." God made man in His own image (Gen. 1:26). If we ask God to damn someone, we seek to invoke evil or damnation on him. Do we really believe God will grant such a request? We have no right to make such an appeal to a loving God. Since man bears the image of God, if we curse man, we are in a sense doing the same thing to God. God

forbade murder because man is made in the image of God (Genesis 9:6). For the same reason, cursing man is sinful. Remember this before you do or say anything that is harmful to man. Man is made after the likeness of God. He still has upon him the marks of divine origin. The likeness of God is still reflected in every child of the human race.

This principle underlies many other commands of God. The way we treat our brethren is the way we treat Christ. "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). How many people claim to be Christians and almost in the same breath curse their fellowman or seek to harm him in some way. John says, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen (I John 4:20). Many may commit dreadful sins and conduct himself as a beast, but part of him bears the image of God. Let us all show the ways of God in our conduct. (B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257