

James 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Analysis

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. With the tongue we bless (eulogoumen, εὐλογοῦμεν) our Lord and Father and curse (katarōmetha, καταρώμεθα) people made in God's likeness (homoiōsin, ὡμοίωσιν). Such inconsistency violates the imago Dei and true worship.

Reformed theology cherishes the image of God doctrine; to curse image-bearers while praising God is hypocrisy. Speech reveals theology—do we honor the Creator by honoring His image?

Historical Context

Jewish liturgies included blessings of God; James's audience likely recited them while harboring prejudice. Persecution might tempt them to curse opponents. James ties ethics to doctrine: honoring God demands honoring humans.",

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Where do you bless God yet curse His image-bearers?
2. How can the doctrine of imago Dei transform your speech?
3. Who needs to hear a blessing from you instead of criticism?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	αὐτῇ	εὐλογοῦμεν	τοὺς	θεοῦ	καὶ	πατέρα	καὶ
Therewith	G846	bless we	which	God	and	the Father	and
	G1722		G3588	G2316	G2532	G3962	G2532
ἐν	αὐτῇ	καταρώμεθα	τοὺς	ἀνθρώπους	τοὺς	καθ'	
Therewith	G846	curse we	which	men	which	after	
	G1722		G3588	G444	G3588	G2596	
όμοίωσιν	θεοῦ	γεγονότας					
the similitude	God	are made					
	G3669		G1096				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 10:7 (Parallel theme): His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

Psalms 59:12 (Parallel theme): For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

Psalms 62:4 (Blessing): They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

Matthew 26:74 (Curse): Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

Genesis 5:1 (Creation): This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 9:6 (Creation): Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

2 Samuel 19:21 (Curse): But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?

Isaiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Acts 2:26 (Parallel theme): Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Psalms 108:1 (References God): O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.