

THE TRAGIC DIVORCE

James 1:19–27

Solomon includes a penetrating statement in his writings that seizes our attention. He refers to a “serious tragedy I have seen . . . and it weighs heavily on humanity” (Ecclesiastes 6:1, NLT). Today’s message could be introduced with similar words, since it has to do with a “serious tragedy” that exists among the Body of Christ. It’s a tragedy that leads to long-lasting consequences on our effectiveness and our reputation as believers. This problem neutralizes our impact and nullifies our testimony among those who are lost and are watching us as we live among them. It is the problem of *a tragic divorce*—not between husbands and wives, but between the large amount of truth we are taking in . . . and the small amount of truth we are living out.

I. Three Initial Observations (v.19a)

- This is _____ truth (“Understand this!”)
- It is also _____ truth (“dear brothers and sisters”)
- And it is _____ truth (“You must all be . . .”)

II. Some Specific Instructions (vv. 19b–27)

- Preparing for the truth (19b–21a)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- Receiving the truth (21b)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- Responding to the truth (22–27)
 1. One command
 2. Two options
 3. Three applications