

Jas 3:1-2 Let not many of you become teachers,
my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur
a stricter judgment. (2) For we all stumble in
many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what
he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the
whole body as well.

It seems strange for James to apparently
contradict the command

Mat 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples
of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20)
teaching them to observe all that I commanded
you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end
of the age."

However, James merely points out the heavy responsibility of the teacher in accurately teaching the word of God and includes himself in the warning

Jas 3:1-2 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. (2) For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well

Eph 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

What are the qualifications for evangelists, pastors and teachers?

2Ti 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

1Ti 3:2 The bishop [overseer, NAS, NIV ESV] therefore must be without reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, orderly, given to hospitality, apt to teach; [ASV] [able to teach, NAS, NIV ESV]

When we look at our teachers, pastors and evangelists, how do we know that they meet the basic qualification?

to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Mat 7:20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

The fruit of a Christian is another Christian.

I did not begin to preach until I had fruit teaching co-workers at school and with neighbors.

You will not know if you are an effective teacher unless you have born fruit.

Act 11:22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. (23) Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; (24) for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. (25) And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; (26) and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Let me suggest that you follow the Biblical example of the sower in Mt 13 and see if you are an effective sower that will bring forth fruit

Go teach a class to your neighbor, co-worker or friend.

Mat 13:23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

But even if you have a “faithful man” to teach, there are going to be times when you disagree with the bishop, the teacher or the evangelist.

How do you decide who’s right?

2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

We need to take care of how we teach. Some are able to take solid food but others need milk.

1Co 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. (2) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, (3) for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Jesus showed great kindness in teaching the Samaritan woman at the well in Jn 4, but he often scorched the the Sadducees (Mt 22.23-32), the Scribes (Mt 23.1-3) and the Pharisees (Mt 23.13-29) (, the teachers of the Jews.

Heb 5:13-14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. (14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

some things are easily understood.

Heb 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (2) of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

God says, if you hear folks arguing about repentance from dead works, faith toward God, washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment, you have folks who are babes in the word of God.

They are not suitable for being pastors, evangelists or teachers.

They are not going to build up of the body of Christ; unify our faith, or increase our knowledge of the Son of God (think Eph 4.11-13)

God has rather high standards for those who would teach his children.

1Th 5:12-14 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, (13) and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. (14) We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

As Paul wrote to Titus about the
eldership in every city

Tit 1:9 holding fast the faithful word
which is in accordance with the
teaching, so that he will be able both
to exhort in sound doctrine and to
refute those who contradict.

Our teaching must be based on the word of God
and not merely stories of no value.

1Pe 4:10-11 Each of you should use whatever gift
you have received to serve others, as faithful
stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (11) If
anyone speaks, they should do so as one who
speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves,
they should do so with the strength God provides,
so that in all things God may be praised through
Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for
ever and ever. Amen.

1Ti 1:3-6 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, (4) nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. (5) But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (6) For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

1Th 5.14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters,
warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage
the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with
everyone.

That admonition wasn't given to those who "care
for you in the Lord and who admonish you", but to
the brethren.

1Co 8:7-9 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (8) Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. (9) But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

This morning, as you have examined the power of the word of God, to be taught to all men, will you not decide to join with Jesus to bring salvation to all the world?

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