

Importance of James the Leader and James the Letter

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. 2My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 5If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:1-5

Before one can truly appreciate and understand James *the Letter*, he must first appreciate and understand James *the Leader*. Because of the Roman Catholic's desire to maintain the perpetual virginity of Mary, they have elevated Peter as the first Pope of the Early Church. Because of the Protestant Church's desire to reform Catholicism, they have elevated Paul to a position as the "un-mitred pope" of the Reformed Church. Both traditions have marginalized James throughout the centuries!

Today's Church must return to the biblical record and recognize James *the Leader* as the pre-eminent leader of the Early Church and James *the Letter* as the earliest surviving letter in the New Testament.

A. The Pre-eminence of James *the Leader*

B. The Primacy of James *the Letter*



Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God – Romans 10:17

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