

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 31, 2016

“Faith That Works: The Letter of James ~

Faith & Works”

James 2:14-26

James is confronting the kind of faith that doesn't _____–the kind of faith that is empty, _____, and ineffectual.

Is my faith the kind of faith that is manifested in my life and pleases God? Or is it a faith that looks similar to real faith on the surface, but in the end, is inadequate or ineffectual?

The difference between Paul and James lies in the fact that Paul attacks the problem of _____ (i.e we are justified by our faith in Christ, not by doing the things of the Law).

And James opposes those who feel all you have to do is _____ and it doesn't matter how you _____.

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

We deceive ourselves when God's truth is received on a _____ level, so that truth never _____ the basic direction of our life—our thoughts, words, or deeds.

“You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.” (John 15:14)

“But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)

Our lifestyle needs to reflect the _____ of our faith.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF REAL FAITH

#1. Real faith connects to _____.

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?” (James 2:14)

• “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters...”

Ophelos =

James is asking what _____ is there to be gained by saying you believe in God, yet not following His _____?

• “Can that kind of faith save anyone?”

The question James wants to answer isn't whether works without faith can save us, but whether a dead faith—one which produces no fruit—no _____ in our lives—can save us.

Will I receive the crown of life by simply believing in Jesus without demonstrating obedience to His word?

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” (James 2:15-16)

What may have sounded spiritual was, in reality, _____. In fact, James says what was evident here was not the person's faith, but their _____.

There is a profound and fundamental difference between the _____, regenerate person and one who is a new _____ in Christ.

The fundamental issue here is _____ verses _____.

To be “in-Christ” is to live out of the _____ and not the flesh; out love and not selfishness.

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12-14)

Love responds with _____ from the heart and does something _____ to help the other person. It's not just a sentimental feeling—it's faith in _____.

Selfishness is all about _____.

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” (1 John 3:16)

“So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” (James 2:17)

The Law of Christ demands that we love our _____. And biblical love is always _____ and not _____.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It

does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” (1 John 3:17-18)

How real is your faith? How does your faith connect with real life?

#2. Real faith is more than just _____ acceptance of the _____. “But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder.” (James 2:18-19)

Scripture is clear that a _____ to keep God’s commands shows a lack of _____.

“If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (John 14:15)

The point that James is making is that the demons have faith only—they don’t do the _____ of God.

Biblical faith will always cause people to _____ Jesus’ command to love in word and _____.

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter...” (Matthew 7:21)

How real is your faith? How well do you practice what you preach?

#3. Real faith produces _____.

“How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?” (James 2:20)
nekros =

3 important things about real faith

- **Real faith is based on the _____.**
“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
- Real faith involves the _____ person—our mind, emotions, and our _____.
- Real faith always leads to _____. For faith to be real there must be a visible _____ to the word.

REAL FAITH: ABRAHAM & RAHAB

Abraham: The evidence of Abraham’s faith was his obedience—it wasn’t just what was going on inside of him—it was what he _____ did.

Rahab: Even though she was a foreigner, in doing this, Rahab confirmed that she _____ in who the God of Israel was; what He said; and what He was doing. Rahab heard the word and believed.

Rahab responded not only with her mind and her emotions but also her _____, she did something about it—she didn’t just wish the spies well—she risked her life to protect them. Like Abraham, she proved her faith by her works—and both were _____.

Paul is describing how we are justified before _____. James is describing how we are justified before _____. We can’t see into another person’s _____ to know their faith—we have to look at the _____ in their lives as a sign of their faith.

Both demonstrated the _____ of their faith and vindicated their claim to believe in God by what they _____—by the conduct of their lives.

Genuine faith will always result in _____ action. A faith that doesn’t produce good works is a _____. It is not saving faith.

The essence of Christianity is _____—a changed heart; a renewed mind; a _____ life.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Real faith _____—if it’s not changing me into a better version of myself, it’s at best defective and at worst, stone cold dead.

How real is your faith? How has your faith in Christ changed you?



Is the faith that I profess a saving faith—it is a genuine faith?

Is it going to stand up on Judgement Day as the real thing?

How do I know if it’s the real deal?

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” (2 Corinthians 13:5)