

"Faith that Works, Part 1"

James 2:14-19

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James 2:14-16 – What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

1 John 3:16-18 – By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

James 2:17 – So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Dead faith is _____ without _____.

a) Works: faith _____ through loving and obedient actions

Ephesians 2:8-10 – For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

RBBC Statement of Faith and Commitment –

By the grace of God and through repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I am a believer and follower of Him. I have been baptized as a believer in Christ and am committed to obey Him. I seek membership in Rocky Bayou Baptist Church and commit to this church body to regularly join in gathered worship, to grow in discipleship, to receive watchcare, to serve in church ministry, to give faithfully to the Lord through the church, and to pray for RBBC.

James 2:18 – But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

b) Works _____ that faith is alive

James 2:19 – You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

c) F.A.I.T.H. = _____

2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

d) Do I have a _____ that _____?

Discussion Questions

- Using verses 14 and 17, what is James’ main point in this section? (Hint: discuss the main contrast, which is *not* faith vs. works).
- Notice that James refers to faith as “by itself” in verse 17. What should accompany faith? Why?
- Describe the connection between faith and works using the following biblical examples:
Matthew 7:15-19; John 6:28-29; 15:1-5; Romans 3:28; Galatians 5:6
- What types of counterfeit faith were discussed in the sermon? Describe each counterfeit, then explain how it falls short of genuine faith.
- How can you put your faith to work that costs you something in this season?
- Pray that God would bring someone across your path who needs to see your faith in action. (Maybe that person is already in your life.)