

Getting Clarity in an Unclear World: “Faith Without Works is Dead” James 2:14-26

Connect:

This is Super Bowl Sunday. Which of the following best captures your reaction?

- 1) What a great game! Why can't they do this twice a year?
- 2) Wish we could have had a big Super Bowl party this year!
- 3) Is that a baseball or basketball thing?
- 4) I could care less. Could we move on now?

Have you ever heard a sermon and thought, “I know someone who really needs to hear this!”?

Do you think the person sitting next to you could be considering the same thing for you?

Prepare:

Last week we discussed biases that we all have, even in the Church.

Treating others by how they appear, what they wear, how they speak goes against how God sees all of us.

Did you think this week about how discrimination at church, at work or in the public square affects how people feel?

Study and Discuss:

Read James 2:14-26. Some people may get the wrong idea that James is saying that works play a part in saving us. Scripture makes it clear he is not saying this.

Read Ephesians 2:8, 9. What does this say about salvation and works?

Read Titus 3:5. What does this communicate regarding the role of works in salvation?

James uses strong language to tell us that even though works do not save us they are paramount in showing the genuineness of our faith.

What do the 47 “one another” passages in the New Testament have to relate regarding putting our faith into action?

Community Group Discussion Questions

Look again at James 2:14-16. What good is it if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds to demonstrate their faith?

Read James 2:20-26. How did Abraham show his faith? What did he do? How did Rahab show her faith? Why might James have included her in this passage?

Response:

Here are three different types of faith this passage illustrates:

Dead faith: this is faith that produces no outflowing of good deeds toward those around us.

Demonic faith: this is the knowledge that even demons have about God's existence but does not result in doing good or furthering the kingdom of God.

Demonstrated faith: this is faith that sees others in need and takes action.

Pray:

Lord, make us people who have a faith that is alive and not dead. Help us long to be the feet and hands of Jesus. May putting our faith into action result in us attracting others to Jesus.

"It is not the strength of your faith that saves you but the object of your faith that actually saves you." Tim Keller

Who is the object of our faith? Jesus