



Sermon Growth Guide

October 27, 2024

Who Cares? – “Whatever”

James 2:24-26

Key Verse: “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:17)

Big Idea: Everything we do should reflect our faith in Christ.

Foundations

The Reformation is often summarized by the slogan, “Scripture alone, Christ alone, Faith alone, Grace alone, to the glory of God alone.” While each phrase holds deep truth, it’s essential to recognize that our actions matter. In this passage, James addresses those who misuse salvation by grace as an excuse for unchanged lives or for resisting transformation through the Holy Spirit.

Scripture clearly shows that faith in Christ involves giving our entire lives, including our actions, to God. “Faith” is not just accepting facts, but trusting the one who truly saves and frees us.

C.S. Lewis said, “To trust Him means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice...But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because he has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.” (Mere Christianity, Book III. Ch. 12.)

Trusting Christ means having a living faith—one that transforms our lives. Everything we do should reflect our faith in Christ.

Understanding God’s Word

Read James 2:14-24 together.

How do Abraham and Rahab’s actions reflect their faith? (See Genesis 22:1-19 and Joshua 2:1-16.) Discuss the relationship between faith and works. What actions reflect becoming more like Christ? You might also read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) or Galatians 5:13-26 for more insights.

Applying God’s Word

Are you currently doing anything that doesn’t reflect your faith in Christ? If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take a step toward obedience, what would that step be?

Life Groups and Sunday Communities aim to foster accountability to God’s Word. Do you support each other in this? How could your group grow in accountability?

Witnessing God’s Word

Showing God’s love and compassion to others is often the best witness we have.

Pray that God would reveal one thing you can do to show God’s love and compassion to someone this week.