

James 2:14-20

Living Faith

Real faith by definition ...

I. The Problem

- A. Empty Profession
- B. Duly Addressed

II. An Argument

- A. Options
- B. Vs. Evidence

III. One Question

- A. What is Faith?
- B. Belief in Action

IV. A Warning

- A. Deadness
- B. One Dimensional "Faith"

V. In Conclusion

- A. True Christian Faith
- B. Is Observable

... is alive.

Children, Listen ...

1. Will being as good as we can ever be enough to make us right with God?
2. Must we trust in Jesus' work alone for the forgiveness of our sin?
3. If we trust in Jesus will we want to do what He tells us to do?
4. What does James say about "faith" that does not have works?
5. If you believe in Jesus will He help you to do what He says?

Faith Without Contradiction

We have come to the very heart of James' argument for a tangible, observable faith: "Faith without works is dead." Some have found this bold statement to be in conflict with that "doctrine upon which the church stands or falls," justification by faith alone, but that is not so. The apostle Paul is often seen as the most stalwart proponent of that glorious doctrine and rightly so. But though we might fancy in our imaginations a vigorous discussion between Paul and James we can be sure there would not be divisive debate over the essence of true faith. They both believe the same thing because they both sit at the Master's feet as they are both faithful disciples of Jesus. They both teach what Jesus taught. Jesus taught that full trust in Him was indispensable to salvation. No debate. He also taught that genuine faith in Him is far more than tacit acceptance of His person and His teaching. Genuine faith in Him would be attended by obedience to Him and evidence by the fruit of His follower's lives. The great apostle Paul and the devout brother of Jesus James have no argument with each other because they both fully embrace and teach the truth about living faith that the very author and finisher of their and our faith teaches. It is by grace alone that we genuinely call Him our Lord, Lord, and it is by grace alone that we set out to do what He says.