

Small Group Questions
Collide: Faith Meets Works
11/06/11

Getting Started...

What did you want to do when you grew up, or who did you want to be like?
What stopped you from becoming what or who you wanted to be?

Going Deeper...

Read James 2:14-26

What verses stand out to you? Are there any that remind you of something you haven't thought of in a while or reveal something new to you? Do any of them not make sense to you or confuse you?

Read James 2:14-16

Given the scenario of vs 14-15 how would you answer the question given in vs 16 -- what is your faith if it does not lead to action?

What are some practical ways that our faith in Jesus Christ should lead us to action?

What are some barriers that we face that hinder us from living out our faith?

Read James 2:17

If our faith does not lead us into action does that mean we don't have faith?

Read James 2:18-19

It is possible to take these verses (especially vs 18) to an extreme to say that our SALVATION is based on our works. How would you respond to someone who would ask how a person could be saved?

If we are to conclude that the Bible is God's Word; then it follows that as God is perfect so too is His Word and therefore it cannot contradict itself. Read James 2:14-26, then read Romans 3:27- 4:5. Take some time and study these side by side. Notice how both use the same Genesis reference. If the Bible is free from error and contradiction, because God is true and not a God of confusion, how are these verses to be reconciled? Some other verses to consider: 1 John 3:17, Matthew 25:35, Romans 5:20 & Ephesians 2:8-10.

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James describes faith without works as dead (vs 17), demonic (vs 19), and useless (vs 20). A quick reaction might involve going out and deciding for ourselves what "good works" to do, which is often temporary. James is pressing for a life characterized by good deeds spilling over from a heart full of faith. In essence, he calls everyone to a life ministering to others. Ephesians 2:8-10 says those deeds (your ministry) have been prepared in advance for you to do. How do you go (or how have you gone) about discovering what those deeds are, and what God's calling on your life is? Are there ways you see those verses playing out in your life?

Authentic faith leads to _____.

Authentic faith produces _____.

As Christians, we believe the Bible is inspired by God, that it is not the words of men but of God working through men (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thess 2:13). Is it enough to say I believe it because it is? How else do you justify or "reason out" your belief that the Bible is the word of God? If someone asked you, "Why should I trust the Bible?", how would you respond?

3 Questions to ask:

1) Do you love God _____ today than last year?

2) Do you _____ your sin?

3) Do you love _____ more today than you did last year?

Take it home...

Considering your answer to the previous question, write out a prayer either for what God currently has you doing, or asking him to make clear what deeds He has created for you to do. Take some time throughout the week and write out Scripture verses you read and thoughts you are having about how God is leading you.