

Talk Is Cheap!

Real Faith Leads to Loving Others

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into **the perfect law that sets you free**, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.*
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Real faith causes me to be careful in the way I speak, and caring in the way I act.

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. **James 1:26-27 (NLT)**

Real faith restrains me from bias & prejudice.

*My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? ...doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives? Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. **Excerpts: James 2:1-12 (NLT)***

Real faith motivates me to be generous and helpful.

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you

don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

James 2:14-17 (NLT)

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Excerpts: James 3:13-18 (NLT)

Real faith cuts out judging & criticizing others.

*Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor? **James 4:11-12 (NLT)***

Real faith recognizes when I'm wrong, and repents.

*What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. **Excerpts: James 4:1-10 (NLT)***