



Discuss – What would you look for in a person that you like?

What do you dislike in a person?

How do you think we can overcome negative feelings towards people who are different to us?

Read – James Ch 2 v 1 – 12

One of the things we learn about God is that He does not evaluate a person based upon their outward appearance or even their sometimes wayward ways. Great men in the Old Testament like King David, Abraham, even Moses at times did wrong things and got it wrong.

God looks into our hearts and evaluates what is at the most fundamental level of who we are. David committed adultery, murdered a woman's husband so that he could take her for his wife and yet was still called a man after God's own heart.

Discuss – What do you think God looks for as the heart response of our lives?

Do you see this as the heart response of your life, even when you get things wrong?

How do you think we can practically overcome favouritism in the church and break open the cliché within the church?

We are called as followers of Jesus not to judge people by the standards of the world, but to love everyone as we love ourselves. To make superficial judgements of people which weaken our love and commitment to them is to live by worldly standards not by the example of Jesus.

Read – James Ch 2 v 14 – 25

James in this passage is not saying that works save you – but that a genuine faith will result in good works. James is comparing those who have a dead faith which does not save – with those who have a living faith which leads to salvation.

Discuss – What do you think verse 19 – 20 is saying to us today regarding just believing?

In light of your understanding and what the passage says what do you think are the hallmarks of a genuine saving faith in Christ?

Do you think that just going to church, believing the right things about Jesus is the saving faith James is talking about – If Yes Why – If No Why?

The heart of the gospel message is salvation by faith! However this saving faith leads to lives lived to God's glory – lives obedient to God's word and lives which reflect the love and forgiveness of Christ to other people. What James is saying here is that if you are genuinely born again you will bear good fruit in your life for Christ.

Discuss – What do you think stops us bearing good fruit for God ?

What do you think you can do to help not only yourself to bear good fruit for God, but also the other Christians around you?

Throughout the centuries the Christian church has been dogged with people who go to church, profess a basic faith but do not live Godly lives for God. Today more than at any other time we have made believing in Jesus easy and the demands of the Christian life less.

Discuss – Do you think this is helpful for genuine church growth and develop? If so why – if not why?

What do you think are the consequences on the church when we develop a Christianity that is worldly, without genuine Christian sacrifice, obedience and Love?