

“Real Faith, Apostasy, and Community” - James 5:9-20

Real Faith: A Study of James

Discussion Questions

- **Have you ever heard the word ‘deconstruction’?**
 - What do you think it means?
 - How can deconstruction be a good thing? How can it be a negative thing?
 - What does apostasy mean?
 - Do you know someone who professed to be a believer but later abandoned the faith? What did that look like?
- **Read James 5:19-20 aloud.**
 - What stands out to you about these two verses?
 - What is James expected from the church?
 - What do these verses tell us about gospel community?
 - How does this view of life with others (and responsible to others) contrast to culture today?
- **How can this direction from James make us feel uncomfortable?**
 - What does this tell us about who or what is shaping our worldview?
 - What would following this command teach both us and the world about Jesus, his people, and salvation?
- **How do these versus and the gospel as a whole challenge the society’s maxim that the greatest good is looking inside of each of us to find our true selves by ourselves (i.e., expressive individualism)?**
 - What does the gospel tell us about looking to ourselves alone for the answer?
 - How does gospel community become a saving grace in the pursuit of answers?
- **What are humble and loving ways we can reach out to those from our community who have now abandoned the faith?**
 - How does this speak to our gospel identity as a family who love and serve each other?
 - Where do we find ourselves not believing this truth when it comes to our actual actions?
 - How can small group work together toward growing in these areas?