

JAMES

How to Treat People

What does it mean to be a real Christian?

1. Being a Christian is more than something you claim.

James 2:14 (NIV) “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?”

James 2:18 (NIV) “But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.”

2. Being a Christian is more than intellectual belief.

James 2:19 (NIV) “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder.”

James 2:20 (NIV) “You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”

Abraham

James 2:21^a, 24 (NIV) “Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did ...²⁴You see that a person is **justified** by what he does and not by faith alone.”

Rahab

James 2:25^a (NIV) “In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did ...”

3. True faith works at loving God and people.

James 2:8 (NIV) “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right.”

John 13:35 (NIV) “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

In a time of anger and hate we show mercy.

James 2:12-13 (NIV) “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

In a time where people are facing loss and despair we initiate care.

James 2:15 (NIV) “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.”

James 2:16-17 (NIV) “If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

1 John 3:18 (NIV) “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

In a time that were people are stereotyped and labeled we treat everyone with respect.

James 2:1 (NIV) “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.”

James 2:2 (NIV) “Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old

clothes also comes in.”

James 2:3-4 (NIV) “If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here’s a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

James 2:9 (NIV) “But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

Romans 2:11 (NIV) “For God does not show favoritism.”

Matthew 5:16_b (NIV) “... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

– *But God gave us mercy.*