



Sermon

February 4, 2018

The Relationship Between Faith & Works

Ephesians 2:8-10

James 2:14-19

**Pastor
Jeff Jackson**

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”



Ephesians 2:8-10 (Holman)

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. *For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.*

James 2:14-19 (Holman)

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can his faith save him?

If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” *Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works.* You believe that God is one; you do well. The demons also believe—and they shudder.

Mercy – Not getting what we do deserve

Grace – Getting what we don't deserve

Faith – Placing our trust and allegiance into the One who gave us grace

Works ?

Christian “works” are:

I. A Response of Love to the Grace of God through Faith

Charles Spurgeon

Faith and works are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works; and he that is without works is without faith.

II. A Return to the Design of Creation (*Ephesians 2:10*)

“Augustine taught that true freedom is not choice or lack of constraint, but being what you are meant to be. Humans were created in the image of God. True freedom, then, is not found in moving away from that image but only in living it out.”

— Augustine of Hippo

III. A Reflection of God in Us (*James 2:15-18*)

Matthew 5:14-16 (Holman)

“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

John Wesley

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” – John Wesley (Anglican minister and theologian)

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Conclusion:

Tim Keller, How Faith Affects Our Work

Four ways Christian faith influences and shapes our work.

- 1) First, the Christian faith gives us a moral compass, an inner GPS giving us ethical guidance that takes us beyond merely the legal aspects or requirements in any situation.
- 2) Second, your Christian faith gives you a new spiritual power, an inner gyroscope, that keeps you from being overthrown by either success, failure, or boredom. Regarding success and failure, the gospel helps Christians find their deepest identity not in our accomplishments but who we are in Christ.
- 3) Third, the Christian faith gives us a new conception of work as the means by which God loves and cares for his world through us.
- 4) Fourth, the Christian faith gives us a new world-and-life view that shapes the character of our work. All well-done work that serves the good of human beings pleases God.



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