

Core Value: Saying and Doing

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other

All equally valued

‘Being under Christ’s sole authority, we regard all among us as equally valued, and seek to treat each other accordingly.’

Galatians 3.28, Matthew 23.8-12, James 2.8-9

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

“You are not to be called ‘Rabbi’, for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father’, for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called teachers, for you have one Teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Matthew 23.8-12

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3.28

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other

Saying and Doing

Saying and Doing in the Letter of James

Martin Luther and the 'Epistle of Straw'

James 2.24: You see that a person is considered righteous [justified] by what they do and **not by faith alone**.

Galatians 2.16: ... a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and **not by the works of the law**, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

How to be justified - 'considered righteous' - by God?

Paul – God to people: vertical relationship – the theologian

God

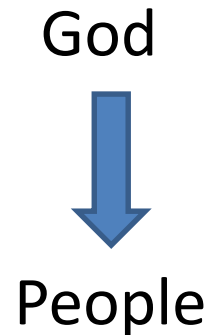


People

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

How to be justified - 'considered righteous' - by God?

Paul – God to people: vertical relationship – the **theologian**



James – person to person: horizontal relationship – the **sociologist**



Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

Keynote Text: James 1.26-27

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that our God and Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

God's perspective on our faith:

- Judged by what we say, and don't say
- Judged by what we do, and don't do

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

God's perspective on our faith: Judged by what we do and don't do

If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes ... have you not **discriminated** ...?

James 2.3

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right. But if you show **favouritism**, you sin ...

James 2.8

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no **deeds**?

James 2.14

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in **humility** that comes from wisdom.

James 3.13

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

God's perspective on our faith: Judged by what we say and don't say

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is not at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. James 3.1-2

No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3.8

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! James 5.9

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other Saying and Doing

God's perspective on our faith:

- **Judged by what we say, and don't say**
- **Judged by what we do, and don't do**

Submit yourselves, then, to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Come near to God and he will come near to you.

James 4.7-8a

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other

Saying and Doing

Application to us - Nehemiah's example

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.
I pondered them in my mind ...

Nehemiah 5.6-7

Core Value 2: Engaging with each other

Saying and Doing

Application to us - Nehemiah's example:

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry.

I pondered them in my mind ...

Nehemiah 5.6-7

What do I do?

I was very angry, so *I shouted ...*

I lashed out ...

I told everybody what a terrible person you are

I curled up inside and let anger destroy me ...

