

Faith That Works

Series on James

9/2/07

Text: INTRO. & James 1:1-18



Luke 11: *“²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!”²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Other versions – obey it, observe it, put it into practice).*

The Evangelical Free Church Statement of Faith, articles 8 & 9 currently read, *“We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head... And, “That only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.”*

In the proposed revision of the Statement (to be voted upon at next year’s EFCA Conference) article 8 puts more “meat on the bones” for what it means to be a part of the church. It reads, *“We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed...”*

As a church, we must aspire towards....

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

(for groups using sermon based discussion material)

NOTE: Please read through James to familiarize yourself with the text.

FAITH THAT WORKS is the series title. Is this an OK title? Can it be affirmed throughout the book?

As you think about the church....what attracted you?

Compare the two sections of the EFCA Statement of Faith. How different are they? What do you uncover?

“The church does not exist for the sake of the church. It exists for the sake of the world.” ** Agree/Disagree. Why?

“We need to achieve a 3-D approach to ministry where we EQUIP, build COMMUNITY and extend MERCY.” What might be ideas to help KBC make this possible in greater ways?

Can Christianity be lived out only in private? Why not?

*(**Italicized texts are quotes from the message.)*