



### PART 3: IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE, ONLY WHAT YOU DO

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#### Sermon Notes

**Text:**

**Intro:**

*"It doesn't matter what you believe, only what you do"*—God never said that!

"When you say, 'Doctrine doesn't matter; what matters is that you live a good life,' that is a doctrine. It is called the doctrine of salvation by your works rather than by grace. It assumes that you are not so bad that you need a savior, that you are not so weak that you can't pull yourself together and live as you should. You are actually espousing a whole set of doctrines about the nature of God, humanity, and sin." -Tim Keller

What you believe absolutely matters. And those beliefs are the basis for what you do.

Naturalistic perspectives on morality:

- Kin Selection
- Reciprocal Altruism

"In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no other good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music" -Richard Dawkins

Romans 4:1-5 (NLT)

Genesis 15:6

Some people see faith as a transaction, but faith is a response to a gift.

**Counter point:** God never said this either...

*"It doesn't matter what you do, only what you believe"*

James 2:14-17, 21-22

The world won't experience the love of God through our beliefs, but through our actions.

"The history of the church is not an example of Jesus' teaching bearing bad fruit, but of his teaching being completely ignored, rationalized, or trivialized—and that bearing bad fruit" ~Bruxy Cavey

Beliefs and actions are both important:

- The right beliefs lead to the right actions.
- The right actions complete and give evidence to our beliefs.

**Conclusion:**

What should we do?

1. Examine your actions, and identify the underlying belief (or lack)
2. Examine your beliefs, and identify where your actions are lacking

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Are you, in general, the kind of person who trusts someone easily, or are you typically skeptical at first? Why? What does it take for you to trust someone? What causes skepticism? Do these same issues seep into your faith? How? What makes it hard to trust/believe God sometimes?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Romans 4:1-5. How does this passage debunk the statement, "It doesn't matter what you believe, only what you do"? What did Abraham believe? See Genesis 15:1-6. Why is God more concerned about our beliefs than our actions when it comes to righteousness?
2. Read James 2:14-26. What is James argument? Is he disagreeing with Paul (read Romans 3:28, 5:1; Galatians 3:24)? How do faith and actions work together? What is an example of faith without action? Or action without faith?

### Application:

1. This week, examine your actions, and identify the underlying belief (or lack).
2. This week, examine your beliefs, and identify where your actions are lacking.

### Prayer:

1. Pray for God's help in bringing alignment between your faith and actions.
2. Other Requests
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