

Faith that Works



Daily Readings Week 4

Theme: “Dealing with Conflict”

MONDAY 09.20.21 Proverbs 13:20

James connects lack of wisdom (3:13-3:18) with conflict (4:1-3). In Proverbs, we are reminded that wisdom begins with fear or reverence of the Lord (1:7, 2:5, 9:10). In Proverbs 13:20, wisdom can also be found in our circle of friends. It is wise to associate with others who have wisdom rather than fools who can lead us astray. Do you have people you can rely on for Godly advice and are you able to offer Godly wisdom to your friends and family?

TUESDAY 09.21.21 Proverbs 13:10

Conflict is often the result of our own pride. The opposite of foolish pride is a willingness to listen to the advice of others. How often do you look to others for advice? Do you listen or is your mind already made up? The wise are open to the wisdom of others God has placed in their life.

WEDNESDAY 09.22.21 Proverbs 16:18-20

If pride is the root of conflict, the cure for pride is a lowly or humble spirit (v.19). Humility requires us to honestly admit that world doesn't revolve around us. When we recognize that only God is perfect and we are not, then we start to show grace toward the imperfections of others. How does trusting in God (v. 20) help us learn humility?

THURSDAY 09.23.21 Matthew 18:1-5

Jesus illustrates true humility using a child. To be humble is to become like a child (v. 4). Children are dependent upon their parents. To humble ourselves, like children, means learning to depend on God in all things. This requires trust which is the essence of faith. Do you trust that God is with you and that Christ has done all that is needed for your salvation?

FRIDAY 09.24.21 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Paul says that jealousy and quarreling are of the flesh or carnal (v. 3). The world creates division over little things such as whether one came to faith through Paul or Apollos when the only thing that matters is that we all servants of God. Paul wants us to see that our faith in Christ is more important than our minor differences and should lead to peace not conflict with each other. How does our shared faith in Christ unite us with other Christians, even those from other denominations?

SATURDAY 09.25.21 Ephesians 5:15-20

We end the week with the encouragement to live wisely (v. 15) and to be filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 18) by dedicating ourselves to worship, prayer, and scripture reflection. We also need to daily give thanks to God (v. 20). A heart of gratitude can prevent anger and hostility from overtaking our life because we learn to focus on the good things God has done for us rather than the negative things that can easily consume us. What are you grateful for today? Take the time to think of at least 5 things that you are thankful for and let gratitude fill your heart.