



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

How to Grow Up

June 24 & 25, 2023

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

James 2:24, 26 (ESV)

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Paul and James together help us understand that our salvation is by grace alone AND our behavior still matters a whole lot.

Two questions that help us get on the same page:

1. What are we talking about?

Example: There's a big difference between how to get married and how to be married.

2. What do you mean by that?

Example: We use even a simple word like stick lots of different ways.

Two important words:

- **Saved:** Can mean either redeemed or healed.

Verses for further study:

Matthew 8:25 | Matthew 9:21-22 | Mark 5:23 | Mark 15:30

Luke 19:10 | John 3:17 | John 10:9 | John 12:27

Acts 2:21, 47, 4:12 | Romans 10:13 | Ephesian 2:8

- **Justified:** Can mean either to be made righteous or to be seen as righteous.

Verses for further study:

Matthew 11:19 | Luke 10:29 | Luke 16:15 | Luke 18:14

Romans 3:23-24, 26, 28

In Romans and Galatians, Paul is clearly talking about how to be saved from sin. In James, James is clearly talking about how our faith can benefit us and the world.

I take Paul's advice on how to grow up when I:

1

Place my faith in God's free gift.

Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

2

Trust that I am completely secure.

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3

Live a life of gratitude, not shame and guilt.

Romans 6:5-8 (NLT)

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

4

Share God's gift of grace with everyone.

Romans 9:1-3 (NLT)

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.

I take James' advice on how to grow up when I:

1

Evaluate my life by my actions, not my good intentions.

James 2:14-17 (NLT)

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

2

Build my testimony on my actions, not my beliefs.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

How to Grow Up

June 24 & 25, 2023

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

James 2:24, 26 (ESV)

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Paul and James together help us understand that our salvation is by grace alone _____ our behavior still matters a whole lot.

Two questions that help us get on the same page:

1. What are we talking about?

Example: There's a big difference between how to _____ married and how to _____ married.

2. What do you mean by that?

Example: We use even a simple word like _____ lots of different ways.

Two important words:

- _____: Can mean either redeemed or healed.

Verses for further study:

Matthew 8:25 | Matthew 9:21-22 | Mark 5:23 | Mark 15:30
Luke 19:10 | John 3:17 | John 10:9 | John 12:27
Acts 2:21, 47, 4:12 | Romans 10:13 | Ephesians 2:8

- _____: Can mean either to be made righteous or to be seen as righteous.

Verses for further study:

Matthew 11:19 | Luke 10:29 | Luke 16:15 | Luke 18:14
Romans 3:23-24, 26, 28

In Romans and Galatians, Paul is clearly talking about how to be _____ from sin. In James, James is clearly talking about how our faith can _____ us and the world.

I take Paul's advice on how to grow up when I:

1

_____ my faith in God's free gift.

Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

2

_____ that I am completely secure.

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3

_____ a life of gratitude, not shame and guilt.

Romans 6:5-8 (NLT)

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

4

_____ God's gift of grace with everyone.

Romans 9:1-3 (NLT)

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.

I take James' advice on how to grow up when I:

1

_____ my life by my actions, not my good intentions.

James 2:14-17 (NLT)

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

2

_____ my testimony on my actions, not my beliefs.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.