

2. **Do Your ACTIONS Reflect Jesus Christ?**

- a. Is this your attitude? ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:31**
“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” We should want to do such things as Christians – *because God has saved us in Christ from sin, death, and hell!* As we ponder what our sins deserve, *we can only be overjoyed at the great blessings we have in Jesus Christ!*
- b. This passage describes a proper way to reflect Jesus Christ: ^{NAS} **Philippians 2:14** “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; ¹⁵ that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world...” 21st century Americans are *skilled complainers!* But the Bible says: “...in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thess. 5:18 NAS) God knows what’s going on in our lives; He also has a plan; therefore, *let’s not grumble but praise His holy name!*

Conclusion: Finally, it’s not by our living, *but by JESUS’ LIVING AND DYING by which we are saved!* Therefore, always motivated by ✦ God’s love for us in Christ, ✦ the peace of God’s forgiveness, and ✦ the joy of our heavenly home, *let us properly reflect our Lord Jesus Christ to others!*

And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

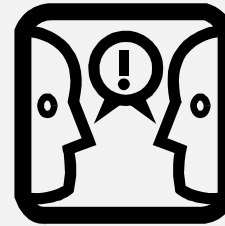
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

The Biblical Relationship between Faith and Works – Part 7

Passive Faith Saves!

(Passive Faith is God’s gift of faith, which unites a person to Jesus!)

Active Faith Serves – By Rightly Reflecting Christ to Others!



Based on Various Passages

14th Sunday after Pentecost, 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2010

Sunday August 29 at 9:00 † Monday August 30 at 7:00

**Next Sunday, September 5, we return to
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:45**

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, so far in this series, *on the Biblical relationship between faith and works*, God has shown us the following realities from His Word:

- We are saved BY FAITH ALONE IN JESUS (passive faith)!
- Our works are the EVIDENCE OF OUR FAITH (active faith)!
- Passive faith (union with Jesus) SAVES, but active faith (the ways we live as Christians) SERVES!
- Active faith expresses itself in our daily Christian lives by trying to ✦ do whatever the Word says and ✦ live for Jesus Christ!

Today, we focus on the fact that active faith moves us to rightly reflect Jesus Christ, our Savior to others! We CAN because God has united us to Christ and we SHOULD because we are controlled by the love of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14)!

Before we get into reflecting Christ, let's talk about reflecting in general: To rightly reflect something is to "mirror" it! → As we look at a mirror, *we see our exact image* (whether we like it or not); therefore, *to mirror Christ is to reflect His exact image to others!* Now we turn to some key passages that will guide us in *showing, reflecting, mirroring* Christ to others:

1. **Do Your WORDS Reflect Jesus Christ?**

- a. What can our words say about our heart? ^{NAS} Luke 6:45 **"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."** A person's heart is the center of his being; therefore, the things that come from that place tell others the truth about what he is – *a receiver or a rejecter of Jesus Christ!* Jesus said: **"...by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."** (Matt. 12:37 NAS) It's NOT that our words save us, *BUT our words show the reality of whether or not we have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ!*
- b. What can our words say about our status as Christians? ^{NIV} James 1:26 **"If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is**

worthless." Some faithfully attend a church, but are also characterized by ✦telling dirty jokes, ✦taking God's name in vain, ✦criticizing their neighbors, and ✦gossiping about their co-workers! *For all such words, God calls us to repent!*

- c. Is this your prayer, your attitude? ^{NAS} Psalm 19:14 **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."** That is the attitude of those who are saved *through Jesus' ultimate sacrifice!*
- d. This passage tells us how to use our words in ways that honor our Savior: ^{NIV} James 1:19 **"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,"** ²⁰ **for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."** As God's holy children, *forgiven in Christ*, let us honor Him *by being quick and slow at the proper times!*
- e. This verse describes a proper way to mirror Jesus Christ: ^{NAS} Ephesians 4:29 **"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear."** Some may paraphrase: *If you don't have anything good to say, then don't say anything!* However, if we are familiar with the Bible and care about others, *we should be able to say SOMETHING to bless or instruct those who hear!*