

JAMES

THE LORD GIVES GOOD GIFTS

THE CHURCH OUGHT TO BE A COUNTER-CULTURAL COMMUNITY THAT SHOWS ITS DISTINCTIVENESS IN THREE WAYS:

I. What We _____

(Luke 1:52-53, 2 Corinthians 8:9, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Luke 12:16-21)

II. What We _____

(Galatians 5:24)

The essence of sin is **disordered love** - St Augustine

- Our sins and our temptations reveal our **disordered loves**, and what we believe will truly **satisfy** us.

Tim Keller, 'Counterfeit Gods'

*"When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an 'idol,' **something you are actually worshipping**. Our idols will cause you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance in order to hold on to them, as well as drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. Indeed, to practice idolatry is to be a **slave**. And if we look to our idols to give us the meaning, hope, and happiness that only God himself can give, **they will eventually fail to deliver and break our hearts.**"*

- Growing in holiness (i.e., 'sanctification') is not fundamentally about changing your behavior, but about changing what you **desire** and love.

John Owen, 'The Mortification of Sin'

"Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you."

If the essence of sin is disordered love and desire, then to kill your sin is not just about loving and desiring the wrong things less, but about loving and desiring God more.

III. Who We _____ and _____

(Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 13:8)



Creekside Events

Sunday, March 30, 2025 | Andrew Pak
College and Young Adult Pastor
Creekside Christian Church

JAMES - FAITH IN ACTION - THE LORD GIVES GOOD GIFTS

LifeGroup Discussion Questions / Week of Mar 30 – Apr 5, 2025

Prayer

Begin with a prayer of gratitude with thanks for the gifts that God has given us.

My Story

What was your favorite Christmas or birthday gift as a child?

Digging Deep

1. Reflecting on Sunday's message, what caught your attention?

2. Take an inventory of your wants and aspirations that you think about on a regular basis. Are the majority of these items material or immaterial? Consider sharing your list with your LifeGroup.

3. **Read James 1:9-11.** What is the "high position" that James is referencing here? How does James turn the assumed status of the rich and poor upside down? How does this impact your perspective of the pursuit of material things?

Digging Deeper

4. **Read James 1:12.** Why is perseverance so important in the Christian life? What is the crown of life?

5. **Read James 1:13-15.** Trace the progression in these verses from temptation to death. How do you see this progression play out in your life or with those around you?

6. Why do you think we have a tendency to blame God for our temptations (disordered loves), rather than take responsibility for our own sin? What have you found helpful in dealing with temptation personally or in your family?

7. **Read James 1:16-18 and Matthew 7:9-11.** What are the "good gifts" that God gives to us? Are these different or similar to the desires and wants you think of on a regular basis? How has the Lord blessed you with good gifts this year?

Taking It Home

8. **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19.** How can we "do good" according to Christ Jesus? Of the things listed, which area could use your attention?

9. Take another look at your personal inventory of wants and aspirations as listed in #2. Spend time in prayer with the Lord concerning your list. Is there a material want that you can prayerfully exchange for an eternal reward?

Praying Together

Pray for the needs of your group. Pray that we continuously express gratitude for the good gifts that God has given us, while being faithful stewards of the eternal gifts we have been given.