



Word Notes: Sunday 07/10/18

Tony Hodge: Functional Faith - Doing

**Key Text: James 2:14-26 and 3:13**

Town Pastors have this as a strapline: “Love is an Action”. Are you not overwhelmingly glad that God’s love is not passive and remote, but that he does things in our loves – the ultimate of course that He gave His only Son that we might be reconciled to Him. In fact, the first thing we learn about God is that He is a doing God – He created and then “rested from His labours”. If we are made in His image and through Christ reborn into Christ-like-ness shouldn’t we also be active doing people? James thinks so and argues for a faith that responds to love through good works.

**Small Group discussion**

If you haven’t seen the BBC documentary on Christians Against Poverty I recommend watching this and ask God how you can show the same love in your works.

Read the James passage given above then discuss these questions:

- 1) Why did James need to write this so early on in the life of the church – sometime before AD 69 in Jerusalem?
- 2) What is the result of passive love that does no works?
- 3) Tony identified two kinds of doing: Everyday doing and Project Doing. The first is a lifestyle of love lived out in our daily actions, the second is a deliberate effort to show God’s love in a specific way.
  - a) Suggest some examples of both these kinds of doing from in and outside NCC.
  - b) Why do we need both?
  - c) How does your life match up in both?
  - d) Is there anything the Small Group could do as “Project Doing” either on their own or as part of NCC projects?