



All that God has shown, taught, and challenged us with in this letter is effective only when it is realized in **our lives**.

Misconception: The church is what I go to, not what **I am** as a part of these people.

1:5-9 Everything in the process of church leadership is **woven** together between elders and congregation.

2:2-10 God designed His church so that, in general, the younger believers are **taught** by the older and the older are **sharpened** by the younger.

There are people on **both sides** of us spiritually who need us to be living in God's standards, expectation, and roles for both of those categories.

3:10 Honest and loving though at times painfully blunt **confrontation** is one of the keys to the life of God's family.

3:12-15 The ministry God has given us takes **all** of us doing our parts for the glory of God.

The **interdependence** of the people of God permeates God's blueprint.

Misconception: Christianity can be held **separately** from living life; that what we say we believe must not inescapably affect all of our days.

1:1, 9, 16 If our **behavior** doesn't reflect the gospel externally, the gospel hasn't affected us internally.

2:1 Our salvation is not accomplished by our works, but it is **proven** by them every day.

2:14; 3:8 (4-7) If you understand the doctrine of salvation by God's grace, and believe it is true in your experience, it will **motivate** you to spend your life doing what is good. If it does not, then what possible grounds could you have to claim that you have experienced it?

2:1, 7, 14; 3:8, 14

Misconception: The good we should focus on is defined by **comparison** to others or by our **own** decision rather than defined by the Word of God.

1:15-16 Good works are good, first of all, because they are motivated from a heart of **faith** and **love** for God.

Our definition of good works must flow from the totality of Scripture, what **God** desires, not just what **we** want to do or find convenient to do for Him.

Misconception: Our good works are all **about us**. Performing them somehow earns us standing with God, balances out our sin, or indebts God to us.

2:14; 1:5-9; 3:8, 14; 2:5,8,10

The heart of God for us is an **outward focus**. Everything about how we treat one another as the church of God, about how what we believe impacts our lives, about the goodness of our actions is to put the saving power of God on **display**.

2:10

We live so that the gospel that says there is a God named Jesus Christ who saves sinners from their sin is made visibly **verifiable** in our lives.

The **presence** of these themes in us will mark us as God's people as we move forward together or their **absence** will be the beginning of our slide away from God's purpose toward the irrelevancy of what passes for 'church' in our culture.

What needs to continue – what needs to change – what needs to start in order for **your life** to make the teaching about God our Savior attractive?