

Put up or Shut Up!

James 1:21-27 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Intro:

When I was a little boy playing on the playground at the schoolyard, you could hear young children calling each other names like children often do. And sometimes a fight would ensue, and nearly every time some child would say “Put up or Shut Up!”

That’s pretty interesting if you ask me, because that mentality carries on into adulthood. I for one don’t like to hear people talk about themselves, bragging on what they have and what they can do. I found out early on in life usually the ones that talk a lot have inferior issues, the need to brag, and boast, if you look close enough inside that person you will find someone that is really sad.

Many people today cant even make a decision on their own, They buy a car like their neighbor bought, they will see their friends at church or a social event and say, I have to have that dress or that new set of golf clubs. I have always taught my children and children in Sunday school classes to “ Be a trend setter, not a trend follower”.

What this would need is something that is real, not fake, imitation, or superficial. If your are one of the above, “News Flash”, People can see right through you. I have been to churches on several occasion and have seen people that do everything by pretense, they put on a facod, they put on a front that everything is lovely, when deep down they are hungry for something real. Listen, “People want it Real”, they see enough vanity, and fakes.

When it comes to faith, and the gospel, People out there are looking for something real. In essence they are saying to us “Put up or Shut Up!”, The problem is we don’t hear them.

*We claim to have faith...Exercise it. "Let 'em see the faith that we say we have!
*We say that we trust God... Let's prove it!
*We say we have the Love of God... Let's Show it!
Anyone can talk the talk...But, Can you walk the walk.

The scripture test said " Be a doer of the Word"

" I cant hear what you say, for what you do speaks much louder!"

Faith, Trust, and Love If we are going to confess it, then let us LIVE IT!

I. Faith

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1. Let's be a doer of faith!

2. Heb 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (It's a NOW faith, Not used to be, or going to be, But NOW FAITH)
NIV says that faith is the Assurance of things hoped for, the proving of the things not seen.

3. Lets do more than talk about faith, Lets exercise it before others!

4. Faith is our Fundamental duty!

John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

5. Heb 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please him...

6. Habakkuk 2:4

... the just shall live by his faith.

7. Matthew 8:1 -3

When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

8. Mark 9:23

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth.

9. 1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

10. James 2:17

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

11. James 2:20 & James 2:26 says the same thing...
“faith without works is dead”

II TRUST

Trust...Do we really trust God?

1. David said,
Some men trust in horses, and some men trust in chariots...But we will trust in the name of the Lord (Paraphrased).
2. Psalms 118:8
It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.
3. Don't place your eyes, and too much confidence in me,
or any man for that matter, If you do, you are sure to be disappointed.
4. Psalms 32:10
Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.
5. Psalms 34:22
The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.
6. Psalms 125:1
They that trust in the LORD *shall be* as mount Zion, *which* cannot be removed, *but* abideth for ever.
7. 2 Timothy 1:12
For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

III. LOVE

1. We must be a doer of Love.
2. We need to be more than a talker of love, we must express it!
3. 1 Corinthians 13:1
Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4. John 13:35
By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
5. John 15:12
This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
6. Love is a fruit of the Spirit...Do you bare that fruit?
Galatians 5:22
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
7. Ephesians 5:2
And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.
>Display that my love in you, by walking in love...Expressing my Love.
8. 1 John 4:16
And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.
9. Talk About the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.
A perfect example of how God desires us to express his love to those in the world.

Conclude:

The world gets enough of people that just say they love, Theworld needs the real thing. Let us set the example of what true love is.
If we are not going to be real, then lets keep our mouths shut!
“Put up or Shut Up!”

Bishop Michael K. Mann

