

# SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER

Text:

Introduction:

Many cults that are prevalent today deceive people into believing that it's necessary to do certain works in order to be saved. Our human nature responds to these demands because we like to think that we can earn acceptance in this life. That's why the busiest workers in church are often considered to be the most devout Christians.

The relationship between our faith and our works is clearly described in James 2.

## **James 2:14-25 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath **faith**, and have not **works**? can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. <sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. <sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? <sup>22</sup> Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made

perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. <sup>24</sup> Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup> Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

After we have been saved by faith in Christ and because of His mercy toward us, we will want to show Him our gratefulness and love by doing His work.

**Ephesians 2:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

There is nothing more encouraging to a Sunday School Teacher or a Pastor in seeing families honor the Lord and serve the Lord together as a family.

I'm afraid that in many churches we haven't helped the family, but in some ways have hurt the family.

In many churches, the wives are in one place, and the husbands in another. The children are separated and go in different places. We have this program and that program all the while the family structure is being separated. I don't feel that we are helping the family in such a setting.

It takes more than great programs to have a great church.

It takes more than hard workers and sacrificial servants to have a great church.

It takes more than big offerings to have a great church.

It takes more than a super staff working with the pastor, more than talented teachers, and more than dedicated deacons to have a great church.

It takes great people, great families, and great homes, to really make a great church.

We have a great example of this here in our text in the form of this couple, Aquila and Priscilla. I believe that God intended for the Christian life to be a family affair. The Bible teaches that it's ideal for entire families to love and serve God together.

Read (Rom 18:1-3)

**Acts 18:1-3 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; <sup>2</sup> And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. <sup>3</sup> And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

Notice how this couple served the Lord together.

## 1. COMMITMENT TO GOD'S WORK

### 1 Corinthians 16:19 (KJV)

<sup>19</sup> The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

A. Opened their home up to the church.

## 2. COMMITMENT TO GOD'S TRUTH

### Acts 18:24-28 (KJV)

<sup>24</sup> And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. <sup>25</sup> This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. <sup>27</sup> And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: <sup>28</sup> For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

## 3. COMMITMENT TO GOD'S SERVANT

### Romans 16:3-4 (KJV)

<sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: <sup>4</sup> Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

## 4. COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER

### Acts 18:2-3 (KJV)

<sup>2</sup> And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. <sup>3</sup> And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation **they were tentmakers.**

Close:

In June of 1855 there was a couple who were married. As newlyweds they were out in the streets teaching and praying among the poor and needy in London England. They formed a mission and organized it as if they were in a battle against evil and the enemy. Their leaders were known as “officers,” Christians were known as “captives,” and their outreach was known “invasions.”

This couple’s names were William and Catherine Booth and the mission was the Salvation Army.

While raising eight children with no one place to call home, Catherine and William served the Lord together that few can surpass.

When Catherine died of cancer in her sixties, it took five days for 50,000 people to file past her casket in London’s Congress Hall where she lay in state with her Bible in her hand and her flag by her side.

William her husband lived twenty-two more years continuing the ministry of the Salvation Army. Before he died, he had travelled around the world and preached 60,000 sermons. Not only have hundreds of thousands been ministered to in food and housing, but through this couple serving the Lord together, many thousands will live eternally in Heaven with the Lord Jesus.