



Application is Everything

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Scripture: James 1:22–25, James 1:25, Matthew 7:24–25

Idea: Application makes all the difference.

Introduction

1. We are launching a new series today: *Life Apps*. We are going to be talking about five specific life applications or practices that Christians are instructed to embrace as part of their lifestyles.
2. So, if you are not a Christian, these are optional. You can try them anyway. In fact, you might be surprised that some of these are mentioned in the Bible and expected of Christians. Not because you haven't read the Bible, but because you know some Christians who don't do these things!

The other important thing to keep in mind is that . . .

I. The New Testament authors assumed a relationship.

- A. They assumed their audiences had entered into a personal relationship with God and, therefore, had submitted to his rule in their lives. "To the saints . . ."
- B. I don't tell my neighbor's kids what to do. I don't discipline my neighbor's children. I don't ask them if they've done their homework. I don't correct their bad manners. They aren't my kids!
- C. Good parents are VERY interested in the behavior of their children. Why? We know that what our kids DO makes a big difference in the direction and quality of their lives.

Only a BAD parent would sit back and say nothing.

- D. Parents that say, "I love my son," but who won't steer him away from self-destructive behavior . . . makes me wonder if they really love their son.
- E. So we should not be surprised to find instruction in how to live our lives; conduct ourselves, relationally, professionally, financially . . .
- F. The Ten Commandments is a good illustration: to whom did God give the Ten Commandments? A group of people he delivered from Pharaoh, fed in the desert, and led. Then he said: Here are some things I want you to do. *Well, duh!*

II. The church loses sight of this.

- A. We start with OBEY because . . . OBEY or else . . .
- B. Then the church starts telling non-church people what they should do . . . how to live . . . conduct relationships . . . even though Paul told us not to judge outsiders.