

# THE CULTURE OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

JAMES 4:11-17

Let's pray

How does the gospel matter impact your life?



# THE CULTURE OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

JAMES 4:11-17

1. Speak humbly
2. Plan humbly
3. Live humbly

# THE CULTURE OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

JAMES 4:11-17

1. Speak humbly

## JAMES 4:11-12

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Slander  $\neq$  defame



# Do not slander

- Katalaleō = to speak badly about someone
- It may be entirely true
- Highlight needless fault
- We pick our preferred morally superior position

Promoted to manager in 6 months  
Always late  
Not friendly  
Refuse to eat mixed rice  
Always dinner with the boss  
Hair is very curly





# What is the purpose?

- To make them lose respect
- Drain their social capital
- To directly/indirectly elevate yourself
- To destroy instead of save a relationship

James 4:11...When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.



# Why we shouldn't slander

12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?



1. You will never amount to anything
2. Your mere presence spoils the respect of the class for me.  
- Einstein's teacher

# Why we shouldn't slander

12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to **save and destroy**. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?



Abandoned by father

Poor family

Started a restaurant

Business partner (brother)  
died

Always working long shifts

Slander assumes people cannot grow (image of God)

Slander divides people

Limited beings are incapable of judging

# THE CULTURE OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

JAMES 4:11-17

1. Speak humbly
2. Plan humbly

## JAMES 4:13-16

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

# Everyone plans

1. Study hard
2. Go university
3. Find a boyfriend
4. Start work
5. Buy house
6. Become manager
7. Get married
8. Have kids
9. Upgrade house
10. Become director
11. Buy bungalow and luxury car
12. Have more kids
13. Retire
14. Have grand kids
15. Serve in church
16. Stay healthy / go to heaven

# Is James against planning?

Luke 14:28 Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

# James is against boasting

James 4:16 As it is, you boast in your **arrogant schemes**. All such **boasting** is evil.

| James 4:13                      | I control my destiny    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Today or tomorrow               | Set my own schedule     |
| We will go to this or that city | Choose my own location  |
| Spend a year there              | Set my own duration     |
| Carry on business               | Operations as I dictate |
| Make money                      | Outcome that I want     |



# What do you boast in? What is your anchor?



Build Your Network on **LinkedIn**



# What can we really attribute to ourselves?

Deut 6:10 When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities **you did not build**, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things **you did not provide**, wells **you did not dig**, and vineyards and olive groves **you did not plant**—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 **be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

# The future is uncertain

James 4:14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.



# Our confidence should be in God

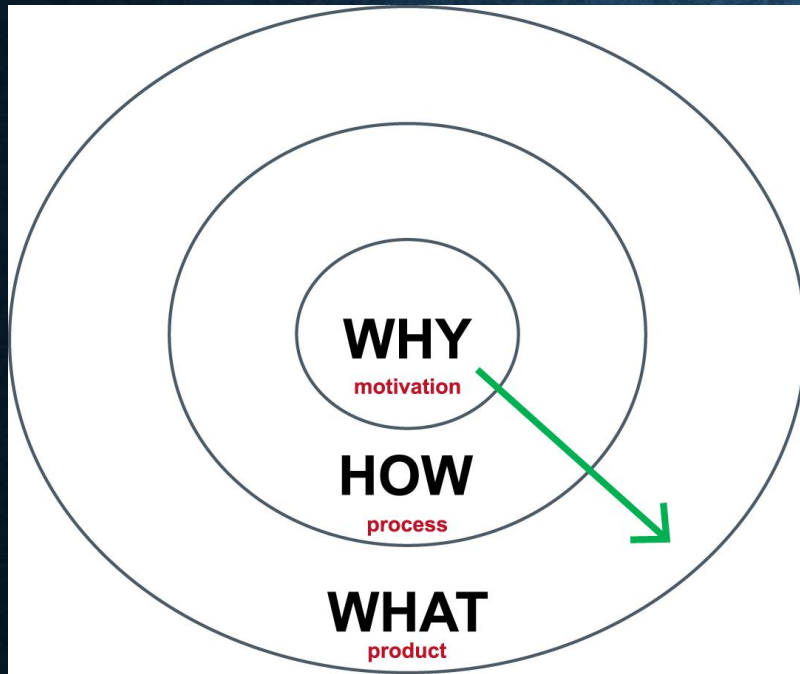
Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the Lord says:

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom  
or the strong boast of their strength  
or the rich boast of their riches,

24 but let the one who boasts boast about this:  
that they have the understanding to know me,  
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,”

declares the Lord.

# The merchant's motivating factor?



James 4:13...**carry on business and make money.**”

Matt 12:35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

# Plan with God in mind

James 4:15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

## How to plan with God in mind? (Acts 15)

1. Consider God’s desire
2. Discuss with Christian brothers and sisters
3. Pray
4. Know His preceptive will through the bible
5. Be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
6. Leave margin for God

We are mist

Our life



Eternity

Eternity

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# Sin of omission

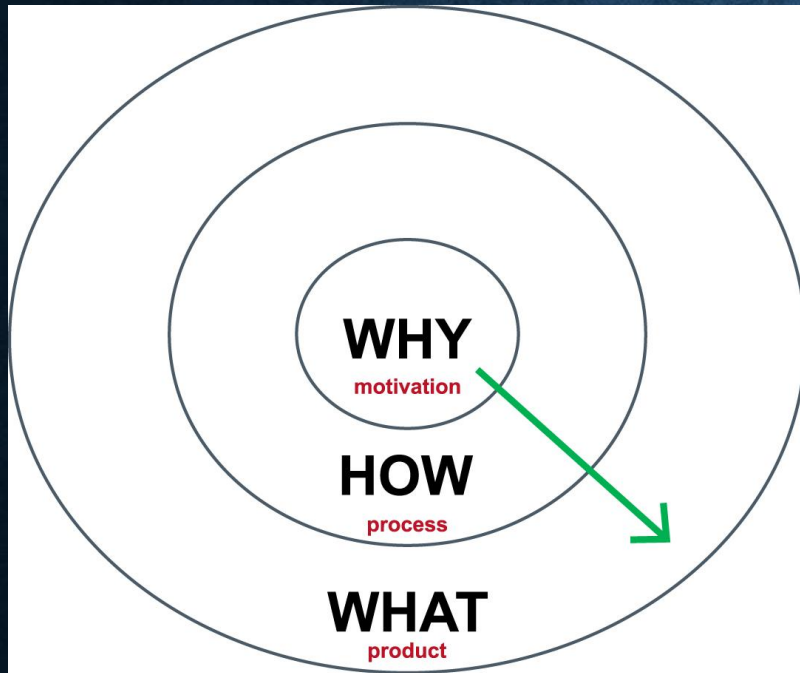
James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Following Jesus is more than not doing harm

# WHY SHOULD WE DO GOOD?



# What is your motivating factor?



an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

We can sacrifice for others because Christ sacrificed for us

# Truett Cathy



# Do good where we ought to



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**FBC**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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**Usher ministry, Kitchen ministry & many more!**



**FIND YOUR GIFT**



Malaysian Christian  
Engineering Christian  
Administrating Christian  
Marketing Christian  
Mummy Christian

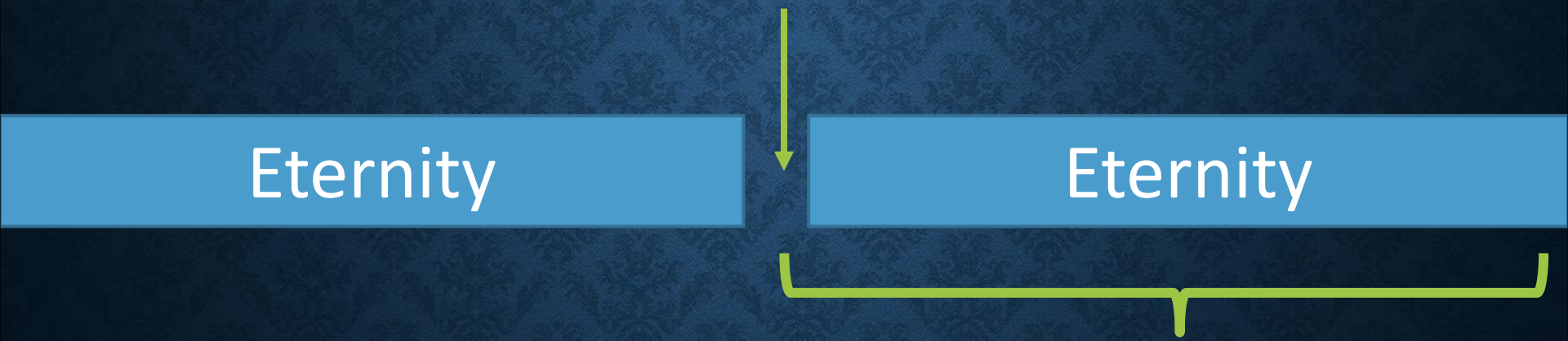
We are like mist

Our insignificant life

Eternity

Eternity

Our potential impact



John 10:16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd



Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne,

# Benediction

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Open our eyes Lord to see your beauty and glory

Open our hearts Lord to act in accordance with your will

Open our hands Lord to generously share what we have been given

(May) the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.