

## Why is it important for our faith to be personal and social?

*“The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.”*

—John Wesley

Here is what Jesus teaches us about the importance of a personal and social faith in his parable on the sheep and the goats:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ true faith is impossible and \_\_\_\_\_  
to God’s intention for the church.

*‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’*

Matthew 25:37-39 (NLT)

2) Jesus so \_\_\_\_\_ with us that loving others \_\_\_\_\_  
his presence to everyone in a tangible way.

*‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’*

Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

3) To make your faith \_\_\_\_\_ is to destroy it entirely!

*‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’*

Matthew 25:45 (NLT)

*“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”*

Matthew 7:21 (NLT)

## What does a faith that is personal and social look like practically?

### Works of Piety

Public and Private Prayer

Searching the Scriptures

Holy Communion

Fasting

Christian Gatherings (Groups)

### Works of Mercy

Assistance for the Poor

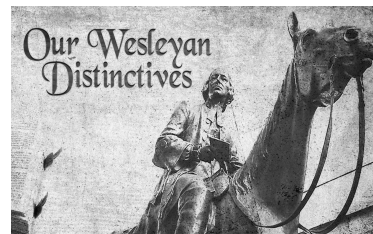
Visiting the Sick

Visiting the Imprisoned

Seeking Justice in Society

Educating Others

Peacemaking



sermon notes

Personal and Social

October 20, 2019

Pastor Tony Arnold

CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

## Why is John Wesley and the Methodist movement of the 1700s such a big deal in the life of Christ Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

One word: \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Methodist movement’s mission was never to form another new sect, but to:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ the nation, particularly the church.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ over the land.

## What happens when we lose the vitality that John Wesley and the early Methodists demonstrated?

We take on the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith without the \_\_\_\_\_.

*“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”*

—John Wesley

## A genuine faith that saves:

- Is not indifferent but involved.
- Is not independent but a partnership.
- Is not invisible but on display.
- Is not merely intellectual but from the heart.

Grace \_\_\_\_\_ faith and faith \_\_\_\_\_ works.

## Answer Key

Why is John Wesley and the Methodist movement of the 1700s such a big deal in the life of Christ Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

One word: VITALITY.

The Methodist movement's mission was never to form another new sect, but to:

- 1) REFORM the nation, particularly the church.
- 2) SPREAD SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS over the land.

What happens when we lose the vitality that John Wesley and the early Methodists demonstrated?

We take on the FORM of faith without the POWER.

Grace ENABLES faith and faith PRODUCES works.

Here is what Jesus teaches us about the importance of a personal and social faith in his parable on the sheep and the goats:

- 1) CONCEILING true faith is impossible and **CONTRARY** to God's intention for the church.
- 2) Jesus so IDENTIFIES with us that loving others **REVEALS** his presence to everyone in a tangible way.
- 3) To make your faith **SOLITARY** is to destroy it entirely!