

Show Me

(Zeke Flores, Adapted from outline by Terry Sanders)

Intro *Missouri is called the “Show Me” state.*

A. Accompanying expression, “*I’m from Missouri, show me.*”

1) From speech by Missouri Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver in 1899: “... *frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me.*”

2) Actions speak louder than words!

B. Jesus used the “show me” concept as He taught.

1) “Show Me the money” **Matt 22:15-22**

2) The principle in the lesson was driven more home by the visual illustration.

C. Christians live in a Show Me state!

1) James challenged his readers “... *show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*” **James 2:18**

2) Obviously there must be some visual evidence that accompany the Christian’s claim to faith.

3) Let’s examine areas where Christians should “show me.”

I. Show me the Scripture!

A. There are lots of churches doing lots of different things

1) All “in the name of God” What is right?

B. Note the Berean’s attitude & reaction

1) **Acts 17:10-12**

2) To build faith, we must go to where faith begins

a. “*Faith comes by hearing...*” **Rom 10:17**

C. This was encouraged by Jesus...

1) “*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...*” **John 5:39**

D. ... and by Paul

1) **Eph 3:4, 2 Tim 2:15**

E. ... and by John

1) **1 John 4:1, 6**

F. Why do we need to show & be shown Scripture?

1) False teachers - **1 John 4:1**

2) To be saved - **2 Thess 2:13**

3) To be equipped - **2 Tim 3:16-17**

4) Because it’s GOD’S WORD! - **1 Cor 14:37, 1 Thess 2:13**

II. Show me faith and works!

A. A necessary combination

1) **James 2:14-26**

2) No such thing as “faith only” or “works only”

Christians!

3) Both work together, each one complementing the other.

a. Two gentlemen were crossing the river in a little boat. They began to argue about faith and works. The man who was rowing them across the river was a Christian and on hearing their discussion he turned to them and said, “I believe I can solve your difficulty. I hold in my hands two oars one called faith and the other works. Now watch it. I pull the oar of faith alone. You see, we can only go around and around; we cannot go forward. Now I pull the oar of works; again we move around and around. Now, see, I pull both of them together and on we go.” Then the Christian ferryman added his conclusion, “In my opinion, a faith without works is dead, or works without faith will not suffice” (James 2:26).

4) Working shows the depth of our faith - **James 2:21-23**

a. An old country preacher used to say: “There are two parts to the Gospel. The first part is believing it, and the second part is behaving it.” The hearer only is the one who is satisfied with just believing without behaving. That is what James describes as dead faith (James 2:17).

B. It is evidence of the re-creation in Christ

1) **Eph 2:8-10**

2) Let us FAITHfully do the things God has prepared!

III. Show me obedience!

A. Jesus requires that His friends show evidence of friendship
“*You are My friends, if you do what I command you.*” **John 15:14**

1) *Knowing & believing* what to do is not good enough.

a. **James 4:17**

B. Obeying the Lord shows our love for Him

1) “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*”

John 14:15

2) “*This is the love of God...*” **1 John 5:3**

3) A boy was once tempted by his companions to pluck some ripe cherries from a tree which his father had forbidden him to touch. "Don't be afraid," they said. "If your father finds out you've taken them, he is so kind that he will not hurt you." "That's the reason I shouldn't take them," the boy replied, "My father may not hurt me, but my disobedience would hurt my father."

4) Someone said, “*If God says I must jump through a stone wall, I'm going to jump at it. Going through it belongs to God--jumping at it belongs to me.*”

5) Whatever He commands, He always makes possible.

IV. Show me love!

A. Love for God is an expression of our faith

1) **1 Ptr 1:6-9**

2) It is the proper reaction to the love He has shown

a. “*We love Him because He first loved us.*” **1 John 4:19**

B. Love for one another is evidence of our response to the truth

1) **1 Ptr 1:22**

C. There is even a model of love we can follow

1) **John 13:34-35**

D. It is love that shows itself in real ways

1) **James 2:14-16, 1 John 3:16-18**

2) "Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."
(Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis)

Conc *In all things, there must be shown evidence of Christianity!*

A. Rising to walk in newness of life necessitates proof of it

1) **Rom 6:4, 12:1-2**

B. The Bible speaks of Christians...

1) Setting our minds on things above - **Col 3:2**

2) Bearing fruit - **Col 1:6**

3) Always abounding in the work of the Lord -

1 Cor 15:58

4) Let's practice the concept of "Show Me"

1) Show God & show one another

C. INV