

THINK ABOUT IT #1:

James is a good man—everyone says so.

At home, he is a great husband and father. He treats his wife with respect and loves her dearly. He is firm with his children and makes sure they abide by rules, but he is also loving with them and spends hours enjoying their favorite activities with them. When his children misbehaves, he corrects them, but he doesn't lash out in anger or scream curse words at them.

At work, James is a good employee who works hard and never cuts corners. He doesn't goof off during work hours, and he does his best to help out customers. He is kind to his co-workers, and never talks about them behind their backs.

In the community, James always tries to help out. He coaches his son's baseball team, and always tries to give special attention to the kids who come from broken homes and be a positive role model for them. He is involved at school as a volunteer, and helps out in many ways there. He even spends one night a month volunteering at a soup kitchen, serving food to the homeless.

James doesn't go to church and doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. He doesn't have anything **against** God; he's just too busy for all "that stuff".

To be pleasing to God, is it enough to just be a good person?

THINK ABOUT IT #2:

Both of Frank's parents are Christians, and going to church has always been a part of his life. By the time he was 12, he had heard the "steps of salvation" about 3,000 times, and so he followed them: he believed in Jesus, repented of his sins, confessed Jesus as the Son of God, and was baptized to have his sins washed away.

If you were to ask other people though, they wouldn't necessarily say that Frank acts very much like Jesus:

- At church, he makes fun of the other kids in the youth group and spends most of worship time playing on his phone.
- At school, Frank is rude to his teachers and only turns his homework in if he can find someone who will let him copy. He has a few friends, but mainly he isn't well liked because he spends a lot of time making fun of kids who wear awkward clothes or aren't as smart as he is.
- At home, Frank fights with his parents a lot. He talks back to them whenever they tell him to do something. He also picks on his little brother and never shares his stuff or plays with him.

*To be pleasing to God, is it enough to "follow the steps"
but live as if Jesus has no impact on our lives?*