**6-16-19**

**Sermon Reflection**

On Sunday, Keith wrapped up the “Faith Works” series with the last two verses in the book of James that addressed the importance of helping others who wander away from the truth – meaning wandering from Jesus.  One objection Keith dealt with is that confronting someone about their sin seems to contradict other scriptures that tell us not to judge. But as Keith explained, the difference has to do with the condition of our heart as we confront.  We first have to deal with our own sin, and if we go to the other person in humility it will be loving them, not judging.

As a matter of fact, James 5:20 says that if we bring someone back from wandering, we will save the person from death.  That’s strong language. But as Keith said, “to love like Jesus, we have to be willing to confront. Otherwise people die.”  Keith talked about how important it is to confront gently. People still may take it the wrong way, but if we’ve come in humility and led by the Holy Spirit, that’s all we can control.

For me, this concept of doing my part to confront and leaving the results to God has been hard and costly.  I have Christian loved ones who have told me that they are not “wandering” and that my views are too conservative, and even abusive.  I understand this defensiveness because when I’ve wandered away, I have reacted the same way to others. It’s a perfect example of Proverbs 14:12 that Keith used: *“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”* Thank goodness the Holy Spirit continues to work in our lives to save us from ourselves.

**Application:**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is a brother or sister in Christ for whom you are in a trusted position to help bring back from wandering.  Before approaching them, ask God to reveal any self-righteousness or judgment.
2. Give permission to your LifeGroup or other trusted believers/family to ask you about anything they see in your life that doesn’t line up with who you are, or with Jesus’ teachings or His purpose for your life.