

Text - James 4:17 The Xian's Chief Failure

①

Intro: all you would agree that the sin everyone commits  
Some think when faced w/ an opprt. to do evil, we  
have no choice about it = we don't do it

Yet when faced w/ opp. to do good, we do  
have a choice whether or not we'll do it.

Whereas there is no more freedom in the one case  
than in the other. It is just as wrong to not do the  
good thing as it is to do the bad thing.

Jesus made it plain that he  
[Jesus] actually had more to say about this &  
His condemnation of it was more severe.  
→ He made it ~~plain~~ plain that he considered  
sins of omission as real sins. cf. Luke 12:47

Text: In a way this verse is a summary of the entire  
epistle - 1:22; 2:14; 3:1, 13; 4:11 - James is not dealing  
w/ unconscious sins but w/ failure to obey the will of  
D. it is conscious & willful sin  
These sins of omission are treated lightly by  
many people.

— when one becomes a Xian, he voluntarily takes  
upon himself responsibilities & obligations which ordinary  
persons do not acknowledge

→ Frequently the Xian life is equated w/ respectability  
& all that is required of a churchmember is to live a decent  
& an inoffensive life & not break the accepted taboos.  
it is not mere respectability but responsibility.  
This verse divides itself naturally into 3 parts ↙

## attempts

I. This Verse Assumes Something In The Xian -  
 "knoweth" Employment = opportunity - Smith, 7 & 20  
 Eph 2:10

1- ~~The Enlightenment~~ - "knoweth" James readers have spiritual knowledge 1:19; 1:22, 23 - Much 6:1  
 ① the Xian knows better than anyone what is good  
 Scripture

Spirit - 1 John 2:27, 1 Thess 4:19 - "spirit guides you into all truth!"

③ Ignorance is not our problem - we are charged w/ not coming up to the standard of our highest knowledge We know more than we're doing

④ Knowledge of what is evil creates an obligation TO avoid it, & knowledge of what is good constitutes an obligation TO perform it.  
 we've talked farther down the road than we've walked - need to let our feet catch up w/ our mouths.

2- Enablement - it is assumed this has been done.

① Basic Roy Principle = God never asks us TO do anything w/out imparting power to do it.

all a work out God. - "I walketh in you"

& "Go into all world, etc - "I am in you."

own stoned Hand - stretch forth

& Lazarus in grave

→ Phil 4:13

→ ④ Our Problem: not lack of ability, but lack of availability.

the ability to do good imposes an obligation TO do it.

- All Med. doctor: a voice TO speak, gospel TO send TO other lands.

## II - Something Avoided By Thy Xian -

"Doth it not," 1 - The opport. has been allowed to pass.  
The ability has not been exercised

- word of witness never uttered; hand of friendship never stretched out;  
prayer for others never offered - money never given; chair seat unfilled; Bible unread; neighbor uninvited.

(2) Jesus most severe censure fell on this type of failure.

① Parable of 10 talents - He buried a precious gift.

He didn't use it for evil, didn't use it for anything.

② Good Samaritan - Jesus called him "Wicked".  
Jesus avoided the helping someone in need.

③ Lazarus & Rich man - He failed to use opp. of service  
which lay at his very doorstep.

④ Last Judgment = Sins of omission are alone mentioned.  
the one vital & search question:  
"What did you do w/ opp?"

(3) Holiness is not negative = It is positive  
"wicked servant."

"doeth" - not "talk" or "look"

Sin is not merely hurting someone, it is not helping.

④

Assessed against Xian

### III - Something asserted - Xian accused.

"To him it is sin."

1. Do we call inaction sin? This destroys theory of sinless perfection - Have you taken advantage of every opp. to do good this past week?  
- If you are sitting back idle in your church, not caring, you are a sinner!
2. Personal aspect = "To Him it is sin"

Private Commands, then test =

Salvation, Baptism, Ch. membership, Ministry, etc.

Casel: Glen Parker - 3 years ago in Houston - 9 men killed - his friend Gary - didn't tell him - didn't do anything - just sat there -  
That's terrible to just sit there & do nothing.  
- didn't make him a sinner  
reject  
SVP

July 21, 1968 - MBC - Irving, Texas

July 26, 1968 - Youth Retreat for FBC, Orange, Texas

Dec, 1968 Youth Retreat - University (Labourn with Camp)  
Bapt Ch - Arlington, Texas  
Cloudcroft, New Mexico

3-7-69. FBC - Alief, Texas

4-17-69 - Second Baptist, Garland, Texas

10-7-69 - Southwood Bapt - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma