

Roll Up Your Shirt Sleeves (James 2:1-18)

Introduction: *Rolling up my shirt sleeves on our dairy farm...*

I. THE CHURCH OF JAMES: “Not our shirt sleeves!”

- A. They did not want the inconvenience of serving others (2:1-4, 15-17)
- B. James’ famous words: *Faith without works is dead* (2:17)

II. PETER ALSO SAID: “Not my shirt sleeves!”

- A. Peter wanted no part of life-giving service & Jesus’ cross (Mark 8)
- B. Jesus rebukes Peter and says “rolled up shirtsleeves service & sacrifice” is why He came & what those who follow Jesus are to expect

III. AND US TODAY? WHAT ABOUT OUR SHIRT SLEEVES?

- A. Do we “talk a good talk” but don’t “walk a good walk” re: our Faith?
- B. The Gospel is this: Jesus rolled up His shirt sleeves for us (Matthew 20:28)
- C. The Gospel is also this: The Holy Spirit living in us strengthens us to roll up our shirt sleeves in service
- D. The LORD lifts us up so that we can lift up others (Isaiah 50:7)
- E. As we serve others with rolled up shirt sleeves, we are really serving Jesus (Matthew 25:40)

Conclusion: *The legend of Martin of Tours*