

### 1. Christianity is more than surface change (1-3)

- Pulling the heads off dandelions won't stop them growing back
  - i. **Look for the sin behind the sin (vs 1&2)**
    - James isn't looking for the apparent, surface cause, but the real, underlying cause.
    - The main problem is the inward battles that are being fought in their hearts.
    - If it was about surface causes then everyone would react the same way to challenging circumstances. They don't – so it must be something deeper
    - 'Desire' = sinful, self-indulgent desires. May start off as something ok but then take control.
    - If you only try and fight sins on the surface it won't make much difference
  - ii. **Look for the sin behind good things (v. 3)**
    - We can't just swap bad actions for good ones
    - Even our good actions are affected by sin
    - Jesus is our only hope of true, deep change

### 2. Christianity is a relationship (4-6a)

- It's not about doing certain things and trying to live on the straight and narrow.
- Marriage is a brilliant picture of the difference between Christianity and religion
  - i. **Our problem: We're in relationship with the world**
    - "World" = life lived without reference to God.
  - ii. **Our need: A relationship with Jesus**
    - True love is always jealous. It always has a proper intolerance of straying affection.
  - iii. **How can start such a relationship and stay faithful when in it?**
    - "But he gives us more grace" (v. 6)
    - Jesus, the only perfectly faithful one, died for the unfaithful

### 3. Christianity is about being taken down before you're lifted up (6b-12)

- How do we start this relationship and what should our lives look like if we're in it?
- The answer to both: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (v.10)
  - vs 7-9 show how we can do this
  - We need to humbly submit to God's verdict of us, and turn from sin to him.
  - He will then come near to us, forgive us and change us.
  - vs 11-12 show what one of the results will be – if we humble ourselves before God we'll not speak against our brother
  - Going down before we go up is to follow the pattern of Jesus



### Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Milford	8pm
Tues	Communion preparation service at Robert & Judith's James 1:26-27	8pm
Sun 10th	Communion As part of our service next week we will be having the Lord's Supper. If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and want to ask about taking part, please speak to Mark or one of the elders before next Sunday.	10.15am
11-13th	Synod meets in Rathfriland RPC  Wed afternoon - Women's Fellowship Annual meeting Speaker: Miss Rachel Millar Planting the Seed - the Beginning of a bright future (Experiences with African Children's Choir)  Wed Evening - Missionary Rally Speaker: Rev Kenneth Stewart	2.30  7.30

### Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark