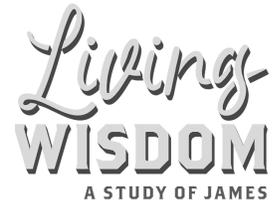


## **JAMES 2:1-13**

*September 28-29, 2022*



1. Define favoritism or partiality in your own words.

Think of a time when you benefitted or suffered from someone's favoritism. What was the result? How did it make you feel?

2. Read James 2:1-4. Note the specific command given in verse 1. To whom does James address this command?

According to James, what is incompatible with faith in Christ?

3. What life circumstance does James use to illustrate favoritism or partiality?

How was partiality given to one man over the other?

Describe the possible motives for showing partiality to the wealthy man over the poor man in the early church.

Read Leviticus 19:15 and reflect on how this truth should also apply in a fellowship of Christians.

4. List and describe some ways the world around us practices partiality today.

5. Read James 2:5-7. As James questions his readers, what insight does he reveal concerning the poor in verse 5?

What will the poor inherit that outshines worldly wealth?

According to James, favoring the rich is inconsistent and double-minded. Can you think of a time when your partiality was inconsistent or double minded? Share your answer.

Read the following Scripture and record the characteristics God values in His people.

1 Samuel 16:7

Matthew 5:3, 5, 8

Luke 1:52

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

How do these truths contrast with the favoritism most often shown in the world?

6. Read James 2:8-11. The ‘royal law’ mentioned in verse 8 refers to the primary law of the King. The King heads the Kingdom we will inherit as His followers. What is the royal law which governs relationships according to verse 8?

In your own words, describe what it means to ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’

How does favoritism or partiality violate this royal law of love?

7. What is James' response in verses 9-11 to those who would argue that favoritism or partiality is a minor offense in the big picture of life?

Is it difficult for you to equate partiality with other sins that have more serious consequences? Explain your answer.

In what circumstances are you most tempted to commit the sin of partiality?

8. Read James 2:12-13. James refers to the law of liberty which is freedom from sin through our faith in Jesus Christ. How should this law of liberty be reflected in our lives, according to verse 12?

Write down some synonyms for *mercy*.

How does a lack of mercy for those in need reveal a lack of understanding of God's mercy in our lives?

Give some practical ways we can live out God's great desire for us to let mercy triumph over judgment.

9. Reflect back on James' words concerning favoritism and partiality. How can partiality or favoritism damage the church and the message of the Gospel in our world today?

What steps can we take to protect the church and the message of the Gospel from the sin of partiality as we reach out to the world around us? Read Luke 6:31 and Philippians 2:3.

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

# The Test of Partiality

James 2:1-13

## A Test of Attitudes

2:1-7

Partiality or favoritism is inconsistent with a life of faith.

Our behavior towards people reveals our heart of love and obedience towards God.

Partiality is judging people on their outward circumstances instead of intrinsic merit.

Partiality or favoritism reflects a doubleminded attitude in a Believer's faith.

God gives grace to the poor by giving them spiritual riches and a future inheritance.

Jesus' followers should remain loyal to Him not to the world.

## A Test of Actions

2:8-11

The action of loving others will overcome the attitude of partiality.

The royal law is the sovereign law that summarizes the entirety of the Law and Prophets.

The royal law is decreed by the King of kings and governs all other laws of relationships.

The consequences of every sin may differ in severity, but every sin violates God's law.

## The Final Exam

2:12-13

Genuine freedom from sin is the law of liberty that enables Christians to obey God.

Every Christian will one day give an account of their actions at the judgement seat of Christ.

Although never in danger of losing salvation, we will lose rewards if we show favoritism.

Those who have not judged others with partiality will receive the same mercy when judged.

Mercy triumphs over judgement when the action of loving others defeats partiality.

### *How do we pass the test of partiality?*

1. Cultivate \_\_\_\_\_ to anything that tempts you to show partiality to others.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ everyone as Jesus would greet them.
3. Change your attitude of partiality with the action of \_\_\_\_\_.

Key: blindness, Greet, love

**Living Wisdom – James 2:1-13**

**September 28-29, 2022**

**1 JOHN 4:20-21** If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**MATTHEW 22:16** And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances.”

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29** For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, no many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

**PSALM 9:18** For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

**LEVITICUS 19:18** “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

**MATTHEW 22:37-40** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**MATTHEW 7:12** “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

**ROMANS 6:18** ...and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**MATTHEW 5:7** “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:8a (NIV)** Love never fails.