



Continued discussion from Chapter 1:19-27...Another example of how to practically apply the Word of Truth (1:22) and pure and undefiled religion (1:27)

Deep in the Bible Study of James (2:1-13)

I. Clear Command (1)

The tense in the Greek indicates this practice was already occurring

James 2:1-13

EVERYONE is SOMEONE Christ died for

1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, God views people differently than man does -1 Sam 16:7

3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," partiality

4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?

7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

If God views us through the lens of judgment, we will be condemned by the "law of liberty" -James 1:25

Partiality (προσωποληψία) Literally = "receive face"

-James is instructing not to show favoritism based on outward appearances -Showing partiality is inconsistent with Faith in Christ -> Why?

ALL of us...

- *Are created in the image of God -Gen 1:26-27
*Are loved by God -Jn 3:16
*Are sinners deserving of death -Rom 3:23
*Can be redeemed by the blood of Christ -Rom 5:18
God shows NO partiality
-Acts 10:34-35; Rom 2:9-11

Poor = Rich in Faith towards God (5)

*They do not have as many distractions to tempt them to rely on self -1 Cor 1:26-29 -James 1:9-11

Rich = Poor in Faith towards God (6-7)

*They can more easily be tempted to put faith in themselves and their riches *Mt 19:16-30

Why is this the "royal law"?

-Jesus said in Mt 22:36-40 that this command from Lev 19:18 is one of two upon which all the law and the prophets depend. -In Rom 13:8-10, Paul explains that any of the ten commandments that deal with our interaction with others can be summed up in this one command.

The only way we can receive God's mercy is to show mercy to others -Mt 6:14-15; 18:21-35

II. Introspective Illustration (2-4)

- This focuses on distinctions being made within the church & not simply out in the world.
-Do we do this today?
-What qualities make us ineffective judges?
-> We are flawed
-> Our sight is limited

III. Reliance Reminder (5-7)

The Social Argument

- If you favor the Rich, then you have mixed up Kingdom principles and are emphasizing faith in the wrong things!
-You are supporting putting faith in riches instead of in God!

IV. Significant Standard (8-11)

The Moral Argument

- Showing favoritism would NOT be loving our neighbor as ourselves.
-If we violate any part of the law, we become a lawbreaker.
-If we are a lawbreaker, we will be judged by the full weight of the law.
-We are hopeless without Christ. James' argument here shows how weighty of a matter it is to show favoritism.

V. Alternate Action (12-13)

Mercy vs. Judgment

We must view others through the lens of mercy instead of judgment, because that's how we need God to view us ->