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# ***JAMES – Practical Christianity***

## ***Genuine Faith: Living a Life of Mercy***

*Part 4*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, September 27, 2015*

### **James 2: 1-13**

#### **Basic Christian Principles:**

My Behavior Reveals My True Heart

“For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”  
*Mark 7:21–23, NLT*

Christianity Is Based On Grace and Mercy

The Motivating Factor of the Gospel Is Love

Genuine Faith Changes How I Value Others

Genuine Faith Grows as It Is Nurtured In the Things of God

Faith Dies When It Is Saturated By the  
Things of the World

Progress Not Perfection

#### **The Problem**

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 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, 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,” *2:1–3, ESV*

Partiality Is Contrary to a Faith Walk in Christ

#### **Don’t Do This Any More**

“Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 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? “But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?” **2:2:4–7, ESV**

Because It Shows that I Do Not Understand the Gospel  
and I Dishonor God When I Do

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not 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.” **1 Corinthians 1:26–29, ESV**

Am I Living My Life so Others Will Remember Me or Jesus?

When I Judge another Person’s Worth,  
I Step out of God’s Grace and I do Evil

Is There Hate In My Heart?

### **Instead Do This**

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.” **2:8, ESV**

Do the Word

“But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 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. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**” **2:9–13, ESV**

### **There Are 2 Laws Referred to Here:**

The Law That Brings Guilt

The Law of Liberty

I Want the Defining Characteristic of My Life to be  
MERCY

To Love Someone at the Very Moment They Do Not  
Deserve to Be Loved