

The Triumph of Mercy (James 2:1-13)

Real Faith: A Study of James

Discussion Questions

When you were in high school, what were the different cliques called? What was that experience like for you? How were the high school relationships like a pecking order?

Read James 2:1-13.

- What does James say Christians must not do (see 2:1) as they hold to the faith in Jesus? What do you think that means?
- What illustration does James use to explain partiality? (2:2-4)

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22.

- How did people show partiality against the poor at the love feasts?

Read Ephesians 2:13-16.

- What did Jesus do to end partiality regarding race?
- How does this passage show us that the gospel has racial implications?

How have you shown partiality? How have others shown partiality in ways that affected you?

One point in the message is, “Partiality poisons community and indicates a dubious faith.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read James 2:8, 12-13.

- How is the royal law (Matt 22:36-39) related to the law of liberty (Galatians 5:13)?

Read James 2:13.

- What does mercy look like? (Romans 15:7, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Luke 10:25-37)
- What relationship does mercy have to the royal law and the law of liberty? (Hint: “When we are shown mercy by God, we begin to show mercy toward others.”)
- The proverbial statement, “Mercy triumphs over judgment” refers to the mercy we show to others. What are some ways that you have seen mercy triumph over judgment?

The second point is, “Mercy shapes community and indicates a genuine faith.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

What can you do to become a person of mercy and not a person of partiality? Will you do it?