



Practical Faith

A Study in the Book of James





James 2:1-13

- 1) “The Lord of Glory” - Following Jesus
- 2) “The Royal Law” - Love Your Neighbor
- 3) “The Law of Liberty” - Freedom from Sin





General Discussions / Critiques of James

- 1) Contradicts Justification by faith alone
- 2) Weak Christology
- 3) Too Legalistic
- 4) Too Works oriented





No Judgment Zone

Examination Zone

Psalm 26:2 - NKJV

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

Psalm 139:23 - 24 NKJV

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.





“The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it.”

D.L. Moody







For all the critics of James

James is not setting the standard, he's pointing us to the standard, the Lord of glory!

James 2:1 NKJV

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.



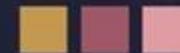


The Lord of Glory

How did Jesus live His life as a man?

Philippians 2: 5-8 NKJV

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.





Hebrews 4:14-15 NKJV

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, **yet without sin.**

Hebrews 5:9 NKJV

9 And having **been perfected**, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him

John 17:4 NKJV

4 I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work** which You have given Me to do.





Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 **But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

How can we be perfect?





2 Cor. 5:17 NKJV

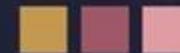
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Psalm 51:10 ESV

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

2 Cor. 4:16

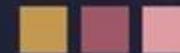
Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.





Hebrews 12:1-2

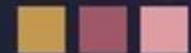
Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.





“The Christian life is not slightly better, but completely different.” **Clarence
Sexton**

“Forgive me for being so ordinary while claiming to know so extraordinary a God.” **Jim
Elliot**





James 1:27 NKJV

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James 2:1 NKJV

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality.

Question

How would you describe pure and undefiled religion ?





How would you describe pure and undefiled religion before God?

(James 1:27a “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this...”)

ACTS

- * Active Compassion
- * Caring for those who cannot repay you
- * Treating others with dignity
- * Serving with spiritual focus





How can you keep yourself from being spotted by the world?

James 1:27b “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this... to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

TRUST

- * Transformed by renewing of your mind
- * Reliance on the Lord
- * Unconditional Love
- * Share Testimony
- * Treasure the Lord of glory





James 2:1

“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory, with partiality.*” NKJV

“Don’t ever attempt, my brothers, to combine snobbery with faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ!” J.B. Phillips New Testament

What powerful message(s) is James communicating?





Who is The Lord of Glory?

John 1:14 ESV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen **his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

1 Cor. 2:7-8 ESV

But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the **Lord of glory.**

Psalm 24:10 ESV

Who is this King of glory? **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah**





Heb 2:9 ESV

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, **crowned with glory and honor** because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Romans 8:29 ESV

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

John 17:22 ESV

22 **The glory that you have given me I have given to them,** that they may be one even as we are one





Regarding Partiality

Romans 2:11

For God shows no partiality.

Acts 10:34

So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality"

Proverbs 24:23

These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good.

Proverbs 28:21

To show partiality is not good, but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.





Practical Application

James 2:2-4

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, **3** and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” **4** have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Acts 2:44-47

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. **45** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. **46** They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity[j]— **47** all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.



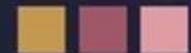


“I don’t want your money. I’m going to die out there. I want the Jesus that red haired girl talked about.”

David Ruffin

Jim Cymbala Fresh Wind fresh Fire
1997 pg 142

“To many people, money is a salve for the convicted soul. God doesn’t need our money, He desires relationship and for us to pour our hearts, service, and love into those in need as though we were Jesus in the flesh.”





Nothing so clearly discovers a spiritual man as his treatment of an erring brother.

St. Augustine





James 2:5-7

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

“Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.”

Phillips Brooks





Luke 4:18a NKJV

“The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To **preach the gospel to *the poor*...**”

Matthew 5:3 NKJV

“**Blessed are the poor in spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 11:5 NKJV

*The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and **the poor have the gospel preached to them.***

Matthew 19:21 NKJV

Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and **give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”





How do you think Jesus would handle the rich and the poor in church?





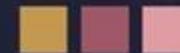
The Royal Law

James 2:8-11 NKJV

8 If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Leviticus 19:18 ESV

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.





James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Matthew 12:31

Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

It is likely that James is making this point to continue the thought about partiality. Often people think their own sin is more excusable than someone else's sin.





Matthew 22: 36-40 NKJV

36 “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is *the* first and great commandment. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

John 13:34-35 NKJV

A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”





Who did/does Jesus Love?

* Rich young ruler: “And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Mark 10:21 ESV

* Mankind/Sinners: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NKJV





Romans 8:35-39 NLT

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? **36** (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") **37** No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

38 And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love.** Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. **39** No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, **nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**





Today, what are some of the challenges that partiality might bring and how can we exhibit Jesus' love?

At church?

At home?

At work?

In Community?

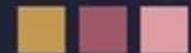




The Law of Liberty

James 2:12-13 ESV

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.





James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, **the law of liberty**, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Why is it so hard to allow the freedom that the Law of Liberty brings to impact our heart and lives?





John 8:31-32 ESV

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the **truth will set you free.**”

Rom 8:14-16 ESV

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.





2 Cor 3:17 ESV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**.

1 Peter 2:15-16 NLT

It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For **you are free**, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.





1 John 3:9

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

1 John 5:18 NLT

We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.





James 2:12-13 ESV

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.





Living as Christ's Ambassador

James 2:1-13

2 Cor. 5:20 ESV

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.





James 2:1-13

*** The Lord of Glory**

*** The Royal Law**

*** The Law of Liberty**

Winning Souls for Jesus!





Practical Faith

A Study in the Book of James

