

Faith that Works: Faith through Equality
James 2:1-13

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

John 15:12 (NIV): ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

James 2:1 (NIV): ¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

favoritism = to favor some people over others or to pay special attention to a person because of his wealth, social standing, position, authority, popularity, looks, or influence.

partiality = previous judgment, prejudice, or preference

MAIN POINT: Do not show favoritism.

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

Leviticus 19:15 (CSB): “Do not act unjustly when deciding a case. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly.

SUPPORT SCRIPTURE:

1 Timothy 5:21 (NIV): I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

The way we behave toward all people reveals what we truly believe about God.

MAIN POINT: Do not show favoritism.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

James 2:2-4 (NIV): ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

There are to be absolutely no distinctions in the church.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

James 2:5-7 (NIV): ⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

God shows a special interest in the poor, but often we attempt to elevate ourselves at the expense of others.

MAIN POINT: Do not show favoritism.

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

James 2:8-11 (NIV): ⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Matthew 25:40-45

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

James 2:12-13 (NIV): ¹²Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

MAIN POINT: Do not show favoritism.