

James: Faith at Work

"The Peril of Partiality"

James 2:8-13

Sunday, July 5th, 2026

~ In the first seven verses of chapter two, James showed us what partiality is and how it manifests itself in the life of a Christian. Here in vs. 8-13, James speaks about the danger of partiality.

~ These six verses challenges believers to recognize that partiality goes against the very essence of God's law, which calls for unconditional love and mercy.

➤ Two Items to Consider as We study These Verses:

a) Favoritism/partiality, is not only a social issue, instead it is a core spiritual conflict. We're guilty of it because of the sin that lies in us.

b) I believe James is alluding to the concepts of accountability and hypocrisy.

I. The Danger of _____ - _____ The Royal Law (vs. 8-11)

~ This is the second mentioning of the royal law. In chapter one, James described it as the "law of liberty." The language he uses here points us back to the Ten Commandments.

~ The first four deal with our vertical relationship (with our Creator), and the last six teach us about our horizontal relationships (with each other.)

~ Jesus was asked about the great command in Matthew 22:37-40 ... He responds, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first command - and the second is like it - Love your neighbor as yourself."*

➤ Two Important Realities I See in vs. 10-11 <

a) Learn to See _____ Holistically.

b) Avoid _____ Completely.

****** We **NEED** Love... but not just any kind of love....

"Our culture's view of love - with no boundaries or judgments or conditions justifies whatever our hearts want and whatever our hearts feel, which in turn rejects any authority that might get in the way. This view of love which is falsely proclaimed as the only path to true-self expression and self realization, this of love diminishes. Not only diminishes, but completely redefines the holy love of God revealed in the Bible."

- Jonathan Leeman

II. The Danger of _____ - _____ Mercy Triumphantly (v. 12-13)

~ Mercy is one of the most precious realities in the world...

"If we let the Scriptures have their say, we will see that when God shows his mercy, he does so with utter intentionality and strength."

- David Mathis

~ James helps us to see that Jesus Christ is the ultimate embodiment of impartial _____. Those of us who seek to be true disciples of Jesus must reflect an unwavering commitment to love others without bias. As we do that, we mirror God's impartial grace.