



Go for God!

## **"YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF!"**

### **James Chapter 2**

#### **> FOUR POWER POINTS TO CHRISTIAN LOVE:**

##### **- Point #1 – CHRISTIAN LOVE IS IMPARTIAL! (v1-7)**

(v1) Christ's *glorious love and salvation* is impartial! – Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 7:36-50.

(v2-3) James declares that **PARTIALITY** is **WRONG!**

##### **> The Partiality Game = LOSER!**

- Rich vs. Poor
- Race vs. Race
- Neighborhood vs. Neighborhood
- Men vs. Women or Women vs. Men
- Sibling vs. Sibling
- Leader vs. Worker
- Sinner vs. Saint

(v4) **Protect your mind from EVIL THOUGHTS – Philippians 4:8** - *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

(v5) Every believer is **RICH IN FAITH & EQUAL IN THE FAITH!** We all receive the inheritance! Warren Wiersbe writes, "How do we practice the deity of Christ in our human relationships? It is really quite simple: *look at everyone through the eyes of Christ*. If the visitor is a Christian, we can accept him because *Christ lives in him*. If he is not a Christian, we can receive him because *Christ died for him*."

(v6-7) Beware of the **OPPRESSION** and **BLASPHEMY** of the **RICH & POWERFUL!**

- Jesus warns of **RELIGIOUS** partiality - Matthew 23:1-12

##### **- Point #2 – CHRISTIAN LOVE IS MERCIFUL! (v8-13)**

(v8-9) "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*" – Luke 10:25-37; Romans 12:9-21

- **Insight: What if I don't love myself, how can I love others? – John 13:34-35** - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**Matthew 16:24-26** - *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**2 Timothy 3:1-6** - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **For men will be lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

- **What about self-esteem? Philippians 2:3-4** - *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

(v10-13) *“Mercy triumphs over judgment”* - Matthew 18:21-35- **MERCY = Forgiveness & Compassion!**  
- **What does the LORD require of us?** According Micah 6:8 - *“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

### **- Point #3 – CHRISTIAN LOVE IS GIVING! (v14-20)**

(v14-18) True Christian faith has **“WORKS”** amongst the body of Christ, notice *“brother or sister”* (Insight on v15 - in the early church we discover hearts of generosity (Acts 2:44-47). James brings to heart true faith by saying, *“I will show my faith by my works.”*)

(v19-20) **God is real! Even demons declare it!** (cf. Matt. 8:29,30; Mark 5:7; Luke 4:41; Acts 19:15) Our faith is real by our **works!**

### **- Point #4 – CHRISTIAN LOVE IS FAITHFUL! (v21-26)**

(v21-24) James says Abraham was *“justified by works”*, but wait didn't Paul say that we are *“justified by faith”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Is this a contradiction? Are we saved by faith or saved by works? Paul says by faith, James says by works! Paul “confirms” faith unto salvation & James “concludes” that faith's salvation results in works! Theologian, John Calvin wrote, **“It is faith alone that justifies, but faith that justifies can never be alone.”** We discover that Paul & James, like faith & works do not contradict, but **COMPLEMENT!**

(v25-26) **RAHAB (Joshua chapters 2 & 6) – FAITH & WORKS** - Matthew refers to Rahab as the wife of Salmon (Ruth 4:20-21; Matthew 1:4-5; Luke 3:32; Salma, 1 Chronicles 2:11). Their son Boaz married Ruth and became the father of Obed, the grandfather of Jesse, and the great-grandfather of David. Thus, a Canaanite harlot became part of the lineage of King David out of which the Messiah came (Matthew 1:5; Rachab, KJV)

– **God's grace and forgiveness** is extended to all, that it is not limited by **nationality** or the nature of a person's **sins**.

- **FAITH** - Genuine saving faith is a personal attachment to Christ, best thought of as a combination of two ideas-reliance on Christ and commitment to Him. **Saving faith** involves personally depending on the finished work of Christ's sacrifice as the only basis for forgiveness of sin and entrance into heaven. But saving faith is also a personal commitment of one's life to **following Christ** in obedience to His commands. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

### **> LOVING RELATIONSHIPS!**

1. **Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.**
2. **Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.**
3. **Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.**
4. **Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.**
5. **Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.**
6. **Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.**
7. **Be generous with praise—be cautious with criticism.**
8. **Be considerate with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.**
9. **Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.**
10. **Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many-fold.**