

JAMES 2:1-13

Real Faith Produces Genuine Love

The Balance Between Motives and Action.

Introduction: 2:1

1. “Brothers and Sisters, Believers” (Vs. 1)

- a. “brothers” - αδελφοζ (Gr.) – adelphos – (combination) – not just from the womb (Delphos); fellow believers; brethren (lit.)
- b. “sisters” – Not in the original greek.
- c. Mark 3:31-34

2. Actual Greek Sentence (Vs.1)

- a. (Direct translation) – “My brethren, not with respect of persons do have the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ [Lord] of glory” – Berry
- b. Swindoll – “James begins by saying, ‘Faith in Christ and partiality are incompatible.’”

3. “Two Sides of Partiality” (Vs. 1)

- a. Outside – Miss inward character flaws based on outward appearances
- b. Inside – Miss inner qualities based on outward appearance
- c. “Pimp Advice”

QUESTION: what is the proper way to acknowledge people (visitors) when they first visit church?

The Illustration: 2:2-4

1. “your meeting”

- a. συναγωγη (Gr.) – synagogue – Jewish religious meeting place

2. “come sit here”

- a. An invitation to “sit”
- b. By you

3. “shabby”

- a. ρυπαροζ (Gr.) – rhyparos – Cheap or shabby; morally wicked – vile

4. “you stand there”

- a. An order to “stand”
- b. Away from you

QUESTION: How does God require His people to address those who enter His house of worship? How should we address people outside of worship?

Spiritual Equality: 2:5-13

1. The Poor Inherit the Kingdom (Vs. 5)

- a. The “poor” are a picture of who God wants to give His wealth to. – Spiritual Mindset
- b. We are all “poor”

2. Hypocrites (Vss. 6-7)

- a. “Don’t the rich (wealthy)...
 - i. “drag you into court...”
 - ii. “slander God’s name...”
- b. Aren’t you doing the same when you show partiality?

3. Just one small... (Vss. 8-11)

- a. (Sarcasm) “I am better than the sinners!”
 - i. Matthew 7:1-5
- b. Even “minor” sins have the same spiritual consequences

4. We all want mercy, therefore... (Vss. 12-13)

- a. “Speak and act...judged”
 - i. Matthew 18:21-35
- b. (Direct translation) – “and boasts over mercy judgment”
 - i. Mercy wins!
 - ii. Toward us
 - iii. Toward others

QUESTION: Why is it so easy to become proud of who you are in Christ toward others? How does God feel about that?

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6. “Two Sides of _____” (Vs. 1)

- _____ – Miss inward character flaws based on outward appearances
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- “ _____ ”

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The _____ : 2:2-4

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