

# JAMES

## James 2:1-7

Theme: **The Sin of Partiality** ◀



A

**1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.**

- ▶ **Q: What is Partiality?** Favoritism or prejudice, to accept or judge according to appearance or social status.
- ▶ • Our worldview determines our moral conduct and how we treat others.
- A proper view of man is dependent on a proper view of Jesus.
- We should be captivated by the glory of Christ. (Hebrews 1:3)
- Jesus Christ is supreme and sovereign over all mankind. (Matthew 19:26)
- Christ transforms the way we see other people.

**2-4 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?**

- Partiality is sin.
- All people are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27)
- ▶ • All people are created by God, with equal worth, value and dignity. (Galatians 3:23-29)
- Christians are commanded to value all human life inside the womb and outside womb. (Psalm 139:13-14) (Exodus 20:13)

**5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?**

**The Sermon on the Mount / Beatitudes / Matthew 5:3 & 5:5**

- » 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ▶ • The poor in spirit - are those who recognize they are in need of God’s help.
- » 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- ▶ • The meek - a humble and submissive heart that relies on the strength of God.

**6-7 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?**

- God shows no partiality. (Romans 2:11) (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)
- Jesus said: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39) (Mark 12:31)
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)
- There is no place for partiality in the life of a Christian.
- Jesus came for those in need. (Luke 4:18)
- See people the way God sees people. (1 Samuel 16:7)

## Our worldview determines our moral conduct. ◀

Q: Where do morals come from?

Q: How do we live in this life & the life after death?

Q: How do we treat to one another?

### The four great questions.

1) Who am I & what am I worth?

2) Where did I come from?

3) Why am I here?

4) Where am I going when I die.

### • An atheistic world view says:

1) There is no moral standard. "I am the god of my world."

2) You get what you earn or take.

3) All people should be treated the way they treat me.

### • An evolutionary world view says:

1) Kill or be killed. (Only the strongest, smartest or prettiest should thrive and survive.)

2) You get what you inherit from your DNA. Your DNA sets your destiny.

3) Some people are more advance and more highly evolved than others, therefore should be treated accordingly.

### • A false religion or religious world view says: (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islamic, Jehovah's Witness and Mormonism)

1) The enlightened or chosen one sets the moral standard.

2) You get what you earn or deserve. (Karma) (work based faith)

3) Some people are more spiritually enlightened and should be honored. Some people have paid off more karmic debt than others, and if they're suffering in this life, we shouldn't help them, because we could be interrupting their karmic debt payback.

### • A Christian world view says:

1) God sets the moral standard. (The Bible)

2) You get what Jesus earned. (Grace) (faith based works)

3) All people are created equal and should be treated with love.

### • All world view other than Christianity leads to:

- Classism - prejudice against or in favor of people belonging to a particular social class.

- Tribalism - prejudice against or in favor of people on the basis of social group.

- Ageism - prejudice against or in favor of people on the basis of age.

- Nationalism - prejudice against or in favor of people on the basis of nationality.

- Racism - prejudice against or in favor of people on the basis of skin color.

- Sexism - prejudice against or in favor of people on the basis of gender.

# JAMES



## James 2:8-13

Theme: ▶ **God's law of Love**

### Q: What is love?

» Love is not an action, a verb, a choice or a battlefield!

» Love is a person.

» There is no love outside of knowing Jesus Christ.

▶ • Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. - 1 John 4:8

Q: Can we love without God? No.

» Love is only understood through scripture. (God's Word) (The Bible)

### 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

Q: Who sets royal laws? The King (The law set by the King)

• Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (1 Timothy 6:15) (Revelation 19:16)

▶ Q: What is the royal law? Love your God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself.  
(Matthew 22:37-39)

Q: Did Jesus live by His own law? Yes (Matthew 5:17)

Q: Why is the royal law so important? By obeying the royal law of love you will keep all the other laws.  
(Matthew 22:37-40) (Romans 13:8)

### 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

▶ • Favoritism and discrimination are violations of God's law of love.

• Partiality is the opposite of the law of love.

• Partiality is sin.

• If we show partiality we will be judged accordingly as lawbreakers.

### 10-11 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

• If we break one law (the law of love) we have broken them all.

• We are all lawbreakers. (Romans 3:23)

### 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

• Christians will not be condemned but will be judged, under the law of liberty. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Q: What is the "law of liberty"?

Jesus' life, death and resurrection sets us free from sin and death.

• True freedom is freedom to obey God and do what pleases him.

• The law of Christ (liberty) sets all people free from prejudice, oppression, and exploitation.

### 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

• How you judge others will determine how you are judged by God.

• The merciful will receive mercy at judgement.

• "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." - Luke 6:36

» God's laws are perfect. God is 100% love, 100% mercy and 100% just.

Q: Are we perfect? No (Romans 3:23)

Q: Can we obey God's laws perfectly without help? No

• Jesus said, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect." - Matthew 5:48

» How can we obey God's laws?

**John 14:15-17**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

- The Holy Spirit is the Helper.
- The Holy Spirit was sent to help Christian's live out God's laws.
- The Spirit of God transforms us into the likeness of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

**Galatians 5:16-18**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

▶ We are freed by the law of Christ (liberty) to live and obey God's law of love through the power of The Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:2)

- » The primary means by which we fulfill the law is love.
- » The law of Christ (liberty) is less about what we do and more about who we love.

**Prayer**

Jesus, help me to be patient and kind. Jesus, help me to not envy or boast. Jesus, help me to not be arrogant or rude. Jesus, help me to not insist on my own way. Jesus, help me to not be irritable or resentful. Jesus, help me to not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoice with the truth. Jesus help to bear, believe, hope and endure all things. Amen - **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

----- **GROUP READING** -----

**Matthew 22:37-40**

And he said to him, "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 commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Matthew 5:17**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

**Romans 13:8**

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**John 15:12-13**

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

# JAMES

## James 2:14-26

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Theme: ▶ **Faith Without Works Is Dead**

### » Saving Faith

- We were all dead in sin. (Ephesians 2:5-7)
- Salvation comes by the grace of God through faith in Jesus. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

### » Dead “Faith” ◀

**14** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- If you have faith but no works are you really saved? (v14)
- James is giving us an example of faith without works lifestyle. (v15-16)
- “Go in peace, be warmed and filled” is a religious excuse to do nothing. (v17)
- Faith that is not followed by works is useless and dead, unable to save. (Dead “Faith”)
- Dead “faith” is all lip service and no lifestyle.
- Dead “faith” is not real faith.
- Dead “faith” leads to dead works which leads to damnation. (Hebrews 11:6)
- We do not work for the salvation of Christ, we work because of the salvation of Christ.

### » Demonic “Faith” ◀

**18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- Saving faith and godly works are inseparable. (v18)
- What you work toward is what you work for. (v18)
- Saving faith drives us to Godly works. (v18) (Matthew 5:16)
- The demons knew who Jesus was. (Luke 4:33-34) (Luke 4:41) (Mark 1:34)

#### Q: What is Demonic “faith”?

- 1) Demonic “faith” has information without transformation.
  - 2) Demonic “faith” knows about Jesus but does not love Jesus.
  - 3) Demonic “faith” is rebellious not repentant.
- Information without transformation is not salvation.

### » Saving Faith ◀

**20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. **24** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **25** And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- Faith apart from works is useless and foolish. (v20)

**Q: What is justification?** Being declared righteous by God through faith in Jesus.

- Abraham and Rahab were justified because their works revealed their already present saving faith. (Genesis 15:6) (Josh. 2:8–11)

## » Does James contradict Paul? ◀

- James 2:24 - You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

- Romans 3:28 - ...one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

1) James emphasizes religious people and Paul irreligious people.

2) James emphasizes the end of salvation, and Paul the beginning.

3) James emphasizes works that complete faith, and Paul works that compete with faith.

Q: Does James contradict Paul? No.

### ▶ Q: Why does faith drive us to works?

• We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

• We give because God first gave. (John 3:16)

• We serve because God came to serve. (Matthew 20:28) (Mark 10:45)

• We work because God works for, in and through us.

• Our works reflects our faith

• Faith is believed internally and lived externally.

### ▶ Q: How does faith drive us to works?

• God's love is the principle (basis) by which we do His work and will. (1 John 4:19)

• God's Spirit is the aid (help) by which we do His work and will. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

• God's glory is the aim (desire) for which we do His work and will. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

• Christians are not saved by their works, we are saved to our works. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

▶ • Jesus' works for us, Jesus' works in us and Jesus' works through us.

## GROUP READING

### Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### Luke 4:33-34

33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."

### Luke 4:41

41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.