

Studies in James

Study four

Key verse: James 2:1

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favouritism.

Kick Off



Big Idea: We must learn to stop measuring ourselves against each other and start assessing ourselves and others in relation to Jesus.

Plot yourself on these graphs and discuss why you placed yourself where you did.

Wealth	0	_____	1000
Intelligence	0	_____	1000
Personality	0	_____	1000

STUDY

Read James 2:1-13.

1. What reason in verse 1 is given for why we must not show favouritism?

Why is faith in Jesus and favouritism totally incompatible?

2. Jesus is the righteous supreme Judge. How does our discrimination among ourselves usurp his position and corrupt us, according to v4?

3. Some have suggested James teaches a simplistic "poor righteous rich wicked" equation. Would you agree, or do you think James is teaching against discriminating favouritism and simply using a good illustration of that in vv2-3.

4. How rich and how powerful is God? Contrast the different behaviour between our rich and powerful God, and the rich and powerful godless of this world, in relation to how to treat those lesser than themselves?

Who do you resemble more in your treatment of those you consider beneath you, God or the godless?

Who are we really insulting in insulting the poor vv 6,1? And who do we ultimately, actually endanger v13.

5. What, or more to the point WHO, is "the royal law we find in Scripture" v8?

6. Verse 12 is amazing... we would expect it to read ***“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that condemns”*** but it doesn't why not?

Who will judge us in our words and actions on the last day? cf. 2 Tim 4:1

Who has given us freedom from the condemning force of the Law? cf. Gal. 3:13

Which category of people will receive judgment without mercy? cf. John 3:18

What is the fundamental different heart motivation between those speaking and acting out of slavish fear of religious punishment and Christians speaking and acting out of Christ liberating freedom from all condemnation?

Explain how the end of v13 captures the difference between acting out of slavish religious fear and acting out of liberating Christian freedom.

THINK AND APPLY

No matter how a person presents on the outside how are we to consider them as Christians?

What practical steps can we take to kill off pride filled discrimination of others when such thoughts arise?

Do you need to spend more time reflecting on God's mercy to you in Christ in order for you to show mercy to others you are struggling with at the moment?

Go back to the kick off graph... plot yourself in in relation to how God would see you but for Christ.

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
James 2:14-26**