

TESTS OF GENUINE FAITH-THE SIN OF FAVORITISM
JAMES 2:1-13

WHEN WE THINK OF GOD'S CHARACTER WE THINK OF HOLINESS, JUSTICE, INERRANCY (NEVER WRONG), OMNIPOTENCE (UNLIMITED POWER), OMNIPRESENCE (EVERYWHERE, ALL THE TIME), OMNISCIENCE (ALL KNOWING), IMMUTABLE (NEVER CHANGING), ETERNAL, SOVERIEGN, MERCIFUL, GENEROUS, FORGIVING, AND THE LIST GOES ON. BUT DO WE EVER THINK ABOUT GOD BEING IMPARTIAL? GOD SEES ALL OF US FOR WHO WE REALLY ARE (HIS CREATION), NOT WHAT WE PORTRAY. GOD IS NOT IMPRESSED BY FAME, INCOME, SOCIAL STATUS, EDUCATION, OR BANK ACCOUNT. HE IS MORE CONCERNED WITH THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART AND OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD. WHERE WE GET CAUGHT UP IN WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES PEOPLE WEAR, THE CAR THEY DRIVE, HOW BIG THEIR HOUSE IS, HOW MUCH MONEY AND FAME ONE HAS.... GOD DOES NOT. HE IS ABSOLUTELY IMPARTIAL TOWARDS HUMANS AND HE CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO DO THE SAME.

Deuteronomy 10:17 NIV

¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

GOD IS JUST AND HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYONE THE WHOLE STORY, NOT JUST A SNIPPIT

WE ARE STUDYING THE EPISTLE OF JAMES AND HE IS WRITING A LETTER TO THE CHURCH PRIMARLY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHURCH IS TESTING THEIR FAITH TO MAKE SURE IT IS GENUINE

IN CHAPTER ONE JAMES CHALLENGES US TO TEST OUR FAITH BY FINDING JOY IN TRIALS, RESISTING THE TEMPTATION TO SIN IN THOSE TRIALS, AND TO ACTUALLY EXECUTE (DO) WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TELL US TO DO. WHY? BECAUSE WE OVERCOME TEMPTATIONS AND COME OUT OF TRIALS VICTORIOUS AND STRONG WHEN WE OBEY THE WORD OF GOD. FAITH IS EITHER EXPOSED OR STRENGTHENED IN ADVERSITY.

NOW JAMES CHALLENGES THE CHURCH FIGHT AGAINST OUR SIN NATURE IN PARTIALITY AND BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD.

James 2:1 NIV

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

JAMES IS BEING LOVING, IT IS OUT OF CHARACTER FOR THOSE WHO PROFESS TO BE CHRIST FOLLOWERS TO TREAT PEOPLE DIFFERENT BASED ON APPEARANCE, SOCIAL STATUS, OR RACE

JAMES GIVES US AN EXAMPLE:

James 2:2-4 NIV

² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing

fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

TO REMEMBER THAT THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART
WHEN THE LORD SENT THE PROPHET SAMUEL TO CROWN THE
NEW KING, ALL OF KING DAVID’S BROTHERS WERE TALL AND
HANDSOME. DAVID WAS SCRAWNY AND YOUNG HERDING
SHEEP

1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

WE HAVE THE TENDANCY TO GRAVITATE TOWARDS PEOPLE
THAT LOOK AND TALK THE SAME. THE CLEANER AND MORE
PUT TOGETHER SOMEONE IS, THE MORE COMFORTABLE WE
ARE TO MAKE A CONNECTION. THE LORD IS CALLING US
DEEPER, SOMETIMES OBEDIENCE IS UNCOMFORTABLE

James 2:5 NIV

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

LISTEN/AKOUO/PAY ATTENTION

POOR/PTOCHOS/BEGGAR, OPPRESSED, DESPISED, MISERABLE

JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM IN A STABLE, HE GREW UP IN NAZARETH, PEOPLE SAID “HAS ANYTHING GOOD EVER COME OUT OF NAZARETH?”

FLIP THE SCRIPT, SOME PEOPLE TREAT THE POOR BETTER THAN

MOST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE NOT RICH IN WEALTH, THERE ARE SOME. HOWEVER, WE ARE ALL BEGGARS WHEN IT COMES TO SALVATION AND ETERNITY...WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIVES RELATIONALLY

THERE IS A MAGNIFICANT INHERITENCE WAITING FOR THE BEGGAR, THE OPPRESSED, THE DESPISED, AND THE MISERABLE

James 2:6-7 NIV

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

JAMES IS TELLING THE CHURCH TO KEEP OUR HEARTS IN CHECK STAY COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS PEOPLE IN NEED AND QUIT GIVING SO MUCH HONOR AND ATTENTION TO THOSE THAT HOLD POWER, MONEY, AND STATUS (POLITICIANS, ACTORS,

MUSICIANS) THEY LITERALLY BLASPHEME THE NAME OF JESUS
AND WE STILL BUY WHAT THEY ARE SELLING

James 2:8-11 NIV

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

LOVE/AGAPAO/GOD’S LOVE

JAMES COMPARES FAVORITISM TO SEXUAL SIN AND MURDER
IF YOU BREAK ONE, YOU BREAK THEM ALL

1 John 3:18 NIV

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

LOVE IS AN ACTION, AND IF WE ARE TRULY CHRIST
FOLLOWERS, WE WILL INTENTIONALLY TREAT EVERYONE WITH
HONOR, KINDNESS, AND RESPECT

1 Peter 1:15-17 NIV

¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

WE MAY NOT LOVE OTHERS PERFECTLY ALL OF THE TIME, BUT WE SHOULD TRY. WHEN WE FAIL, WE REPENT AND MAKE IT RIGHT. THIS IS ALL TO HONOR GOD AND REFLECT CHRIST'S LOVE

James 2:12-13 NIV

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

IF YOU ARE SAVED, LIVE LIKE YOU ARE SAVED
A TRULY REGENERATED HEART WILL BE COMPELLED TO SHOW
MERCY AND GRACE TO OTHERS

THE LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM IS GOD'S WORD...DO WHAT HE
SAYS TO DO AND YOU SHALL BE FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN
AND SELF

END