

Matt. 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

John 13

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Love is the birth mark of a believer

What is love?

The prominent word for love is agape:

A sacrificial kind of love that does whatever it takes to help the object of his love...

Biblical love is to inconvenience yourself for the convenience of others!!!!

What Jesus and James are saying is that you cannot discriminate and love at the same time.

it is biblically impossible to show favoritism and to love at the same time

III. The **result**, “Rewards or Consequences”. V.12-13

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.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by **WORD**

Matt. 7:1-2

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Show “MERCY”

¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

What Can we do: 1. Awareness.
2. Relationships.
3. Commitment.

Religion= Is “An outward display of something that’s inwardly true”....

if your relationship with God is inwardly true you will display it outwardly in the way you see and tread other people

Grace Norwalk. - James Pt. 10. 2:1-13

“Favoritism doesn’t Fit the Christian Life.” Pastor Oscar Chavez

V.2-12. **trials**

V.13-15. **temptation.**

V.16-18 God has given us **the Word** to help us through trials and temptations

V.19-25. For the Word to do the work in us is a process

* Prepare your heart and mind to: V.21

* Be quick to listen to the Word. V.19

* Receive the Word. V.21a

* Implant the Word V.21b

* Be a doer of the Word V.21b. If not “You are deceiving yourselves”

Remember James is writing so they can put their faith to the test..... real or fake....

The test of Faith three times

- “How does a living faith respond to Trials” V.2-12
- “How does a living faith respond to Temptation” V.13-15
- “How does a living faith respond to Gods Word” V.16-25

By been a doer of the word...

V.26-27. What does being a “doer of the Word” looks like.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Religion= Is “An outward display of something that’s inwardly true”.

- By the way you use your words.
²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart
- By the way you help, serve and treat others.
visit orphans and widows in their affliction
- By the way you live your life.... Being a doer.
and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

The fourth Test of your faith is that if you are a doer of the Word “How are you treating other people”. James 2:1-13

BACKGROUND CONTEXT.

James 2:1-13

1. In the first century, A.D., polarized conditions governed society; people were either rich or poor, slaves or free, Jew or Gentile, Greek or barbarian
2. However, part of the good news of the gospel was that in Christ Jesus social barriers lost much of their strength...

As Paul wrote to the Galatians: *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* - Ga 3:28

Again, in writing to the Colossians: *“where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”* - Co 3:11

James 2

Favoritism Forbidden

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

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? **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?

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.

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.

What is discrimination?

Discrimination simply means that we look at a person’s outside to determine their worth on the inside.

Let’s look at three important things that James communicates:

I. The **Problem**. The Heart. V.1-7.

We all have this sinful tendency to show favoritism.... Is by nature in our hearts

Discrimination It’s tragic in the World....

What’s more tragic is that it happens in the church...

We let ourselves go by what we see....

1 Sam. 16:6-7

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”

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.”

Leviticus 19:15

15 “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

V.1 We Must not do it!!!

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

The word “**favoritism**” = **Greek means “Lift the face”**

V.2-3. An example of what I mean!!!

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,

V.4. Where does the problem begin and why do you do it? V.4-7

4 **have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?**

II. The **Solution**. V5- 11

It’s an issue of action, we need new hearts, but we also need new action...

James said, I give you an example of what not to do, now let me reason with you

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? **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?

we need new hearts, but we also need new action...

8 If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, “**Love your neighbor as yourself,**” you are doing right

LOVE!