



THE EVIDENCE OF A
GENUINE FAITH

PURSUING WHAT
MATTERS TO GOD

*The Tempering of Your
Judgment
(James 2:1-13)*

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself', you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin... - James 2:8 – 9

The church is... made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together... because they have all been saved by Jesus Christ... They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus' sake. - Donald A. Carson

Maturity of the soul is manifested when other people become more important than you. - Charles Colson

BIG IDEA: Showing Partiality is Inconsistent with our Faith in Jesus Christ (2:1)

Why? Because showing partiality is ...

- i. Based on Superficial Distinctions (2:2 – 4)

- ii. Rooted in Worldly Values (2:5 – 7)

- iii. Contrary to the Law of Love (2:8 – 11)

- iv. Judgemental rather than Merciful (2:12 – 13)

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES



Study and Discussion Questions

James 2:1-13

Open It

1. How much money would it take to make you consider yourself rich?
2. For what reasons might a person think he or she is more important than another person?

Explore It

3. What practical example did James use to illustrate how favoritism was practiced in the church? (2:1-4)
4. What has God promised to the poor of this world? (2:5)
5. What does the church do to the poor person when it shows favoritism toward the rich? (2:6)
6. What do rich people have a history of doing to people in the church? (2:6-7)
7. What does a person have to do to be considered a lawbreaker? (2:10-11)
8. Why should we be merciful? (2:13)

Get It

9. How have you shown favoritism or prejudice toward other people?
10. How do we use physical appearance, job status, and athletic ability to show favoritism toward people?
11. How can we welcome poor people in our church?
12. In what practical ways can we show genuine love to people of different races, cultures, and economic standing?
13. Why is favoritism or prejudice often overlooked as a sin?

Apply It

14. From whom can you ask forgiveness this week for showing prejudice toward him or her?
15. How can you change the way you look at wealth this week so that you value it as God does?