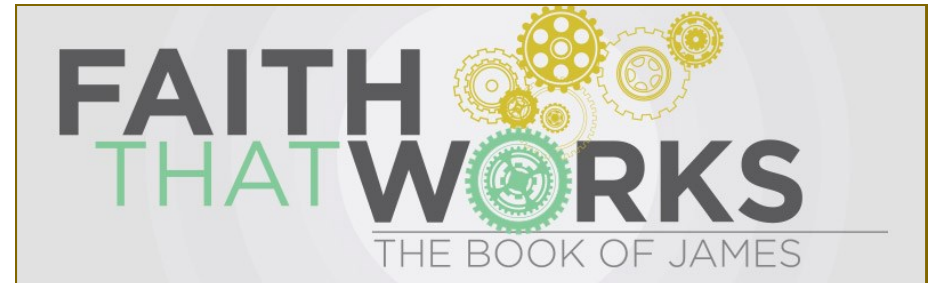


Reflection Questions: How do I feel when I am dishonored? Do I make others feel that same way by my words and/or actions? How is my love for God currently? How is my love for God shown to those around me?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#12 Reasons Against Favoritism (2:5-7)

Sermon
Notes

May 19, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

If there is one community in this world where all should get equal treatment, it is the church.... Whoever we are by the world's standards, we are orphaned by sin and adopted into God's family by grace.

Daniel M. Doriani

When Christians show favoritism toward people in the assembly, they implicitly claim God's own right to stand in judgment over other people.

Douglas Moo

Grace is the leveler of our worthiness. For a Christian to make his estimation of how he treats people in the world based on their inherent worthiness in his own eyes is a contradiction of God's mercy to us.

J. Ligon Duncan

The message of Christianity was that those who mattered to no one else mattered intensely to God.

William Barclay

Money still does the talking far too loudly in Christian circles, and where and when it does, the glory of Christ departs.

John Stott

To be partial to the rich and turn your backs on the poor cannot possibly correspond to God's character or to His Word and will.

John MacArthur

God delights especially to shower His grace on those whom the world has discarded and on those who are most keenly aware of their own inadequacy.

John Stott

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you?
Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. Read *James 1:5*. Is James condemning one form of discrimination by replacing it with another? Does James picture God as One who discriminates in His election in favor of the poor at the expense of the rich? Explain.

3. According to the following verses, what kind of people does God seek?

Deuteronomy 7:7 —

Isaiah 61:1 —

Judges 6:15 —

Matthew 11:25 —

1 Samuel 16:10-13 —

Luke 9:48 —

Psalms 41:1 —

Luke 18:25 —

Psalms 68:10 —

4. To whom does God make the promise found in *James 2:5*?

5. What irony does James point out in *James 2:5*?

6. What type of *poor* is James referring to in *James 2:5*? How do you know?

7. Why does God tend to choose the weak over the strong and the poor over the rich (*1 Corinthians 1:26-31; James 2:5*)?

8. Is God unconditionally on the side of the poor? Are the rich by nature persecutors and oppressors without exception?

9. How does *James 2:5* compare with *1 John 4:20*?

10. What have the rich done to the poor in *James 2:6*? Does this still take place today? Examples?

11. How might we dishonor the poor (*James 1:6*)?

12. Read *Luke 19:1-10*. What was Zaccheus' response after being saved to those he had oppressed?

13. According to *James 2:7*, who blasphemes and how do they do it?

14. What *fair name* is referred to in *James 2:7*?

15. What does the phrase, *the fair name by which you have been called*, mean (*James 2:7*)?