



A Study of James

Week Five 5 10/05 – 10/11: James 2:1-13

Faith Test: Show No Favoritism/Respect Everyone

Homework:

1. “Playing Favorites” is hard to avoid. What can we learn from the following verses regarding God’s view of favoritism and how can these help us when we are tempted to play favorites?
Acts 10:34-35, Romans 2:6-13, Romans 10:12-13, Ephesians 6:9
In which area of your life will it be the most challenging to follow God’s example and not play favorites?
2. One of the ways we can avoid favoritism is to learn to appreciate people who are more challenging for us to get along with and to strive to see them in a different light.
 - a. Read **Ephesians 4:1-3** and write down Paul’s instruction about how we can bridge some of our differences and unify in Christ.
 - b. Which one of the behaviors described in **Ephesians 4:1-3** presents the biggest challenge for you to put into action?
3. One way to evaluate our personal relationship with God is to take a look at the way we treat His people. Read the following verses and write down what they have to say about how our treatment of others impacts our relationship with God.
John 13:35, 1 John 3:17, 1 John 4:12, 1 John 4:20
4. When we remember our great need for forgiveness and God's incredible provision, we become more open and willing to show mercy and forgive others. Jesus addressed this issue in his response to a question Peter asked him. What insights and principles do you learn about forgiveness from Jesus' straightforward answer and insightful parable in **Matthew 18:21-35**?
5. What are the signs that a person may not have forgiven someone? What are the signs that a person has forgiven someone?

6. An essential part of showing mercy means refusing to seek our own revenge. But doing so can be difficult because it can feel like the other person is getting away with something. In **1 Samuel 24:1-13**, we see an example of David not seeking revenge even though he had been wronged by Saul. Read this passage and answer the following questions.
- a. How and why do you think David was able to not seek justice for himself?
 - b. What is the most challenging aspect for you in not seeking justice or revenge?
 - c. How can this passage help motivate you to forgive and show mercy instead of seeking revenge?
7. Showing mercy does not necessarily mean we forget an offense or trust the offending person again. How could the following verses help a person be more discerning about who to trust and who not to trust in the future?

Proverbs 22:10, Colossians 2:6-8, 1 Timothy 6:3-, Matthew 7:18-20, 1 Corinthians 15:33