

I. BIBLE: JAMES 2:1-13

A. ISSUE: JUSTICE/INJUSTICE (2:1-13)

1. glorious Judge (1; see Ps.96:8,13; Mt.19:28)
2. judges judging (4; see Acts 15:9; 1Cor.6:5)
3. drag into court (6; see Mt.5:25)
4. law for judgment (8-13; see 4:11; Jn.18:31)
5. injustice: not giving the good that is due (3,4,6,9; Lev.19:15; Dt.25:16)

B. CASE STUDY: A TALE OF TWO SITIES (3a/3b; see 2-7)

C. PROBLEM: THE LAW OF LUST (4; see 1:14; 4:2; see Rom.7:23)

D. SOLUTION: THE LAW OF LOVE (8f; see Rom.13:8f; see Jms.5:8a,12 w/5&8b (Mt.22:37,39))

II. DOCTRINE: THE SIN OF PARTIALITY (2:1,9)

A. THE CALL TO IMPARTIALITY

1. from God (Dt.10:17; Acts 10:34; Rom.2:11; Gal.2:6; Eph.6:9; Col.3:25)
2. to man (Ex.23:3; Lev.19:15(18); Dt.1:17; 16:19; Ps.82:2; Pr.18:5; 24:23; 28:31; Mal.2:9; Mt.22:16; 1Tm.5:21)

B. FREE PREFERENCES OF GRACE

1. selection: love & choice (Jms.2:5; see Dt.4:37; 7:7; 10:15; Eph.1:4f)
2. divine example: the twelve (Gen.49:28; Lk.6:13(see 8:51; 9:28))
3. grace: unmerited favor (Dt.7:6f; Rom.4:1f; 11:5)

C. BOUND PREFERENCES OF PROVIDENCE (*office* vs. person; Ex.20:12; Rom.13:7; Eph.5:33; 1Tm.3:13; 5:17; 1Pt.3:7)

D. SINFUL PREFERENCES OF PREJUDICE

1. truth: equality before God (Gen.1:26 (Job 34:19); Gal.3:26,28; 2:6)
2. right: equality among brethren (Jms.2:1,5; 1:9-11; Mt.5:3 /Acts 2:42; 1Cor.11:21,22|Dt.13:6f /Acts 22:25f)
3. sin: take life as brother (Jms.2:3,6; 8-12; see Mt.5:21f)
4. lust: whatsinit for you (Jms.2:4; see 1:15; 4:2; Dt.15:9f; Acts 24:26)

E. ALL TOGETHER NOW (Dt.10:15,17f; Lev.19:15,18; see Jms.5:8a,12 w/5&8b (Mt.22:37,39))

III. PRACTICE: LOVE JUSTICE! (Dt.10:17,18; Is.61:8; Am.5:24; Mic.6:8; Lk.11:42)

A. CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS FREELY (Dt.10:15,17f; see 1Sam.18:1f; 20:17; 2Sam.1:26)

B. HONOR YOUR OFFICERS FAITHFULLY (Eph.5:33; 6:2; 1Tm.3:13; 5:17)

C. LOVE ALL YOUR BRETHREN FAIRLY (Jms.2:8f,1f /1Th.4:9; Heb.13:1f; 1Pt.1:22; 1Jn.3:14f /Eph.4:16)

D. EXAMINE YOUR ACTIONS & MOTIVES FASTIDIOUSLY (Jms.2:4; 1:14; 4:2; 1Jn.2:16 /Lk.6:32-38)

E. BE ESPECIALLY DILIGENT TO LOVE THE LEAST LOVEABLE BRETHREN (2:3; 1:27; see Rom.12:16; 1Cor.1:27; *versus* church growth “demographics”)

F. TRUE RELIGION & LIVE FAITH (1:27; 2:14f w/2:1f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What is your emotional response when someone participates in your church fellowship who is clearly well off? What are your thoughts? words? actions? motivations? Do you need to change any of these things? If so, how?
4. What is your emotional response when someone participates in your church fellowship who is clearly in great need? What are your thoughts? words? actions? motivations? Do you need to change any of these things? If so, how?
5. Define and contrast these terms
 - a. Justice
 - b. Grace
 - c. Mercy
6. Is it right for a Christian to have some people in their church fellowship who are closer than others? Why or why not? How was this true with David? the Lord Jesus?
7. What temptations are there in close friendships? How can we overcome them?
8. What temptations are there in church relationships with people who are not close friends? How can we overcome these?