

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

James 2:1-7

8/18/21

James 2:1-7

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not

God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Passage Summary

James continues to develop what it means to live by the wisdom of God rather than the wisdom of the world by exploring the practical topic of partiality. He does so in these verses through the example of how a person is often treated relative to their external appearance even within the church. James points out that judging by externals puts us at odds with God and contrary to His values.

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don't feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

James 2:1-7

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

- What does it mean to be partial in general? What does James mean when he speaks of partiality in this verse? Is he arguing for no distinction or preference to ever be shown? How do we know?
- Does God ever make distinctions? On what basis?
- How is partiality connected to faith?
- What does partiality say about us?
- What makes Jesus glorious? Are there some Scriptural examples of the glory of Jesus on display?

James 2:2-4

² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

- What would the example which James provides look like in our church?
- According to verse 4, what is the real problem?

James 2:5

⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

- What are some examples of God choosing the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?
- What are some ways in which believers will always be “poor in the world”?
- What are some ways in which believers do not need to be “poor in the world”?

James 2:6–7

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

- How would the rich oppress believers in James day?
- What are some external things that might tempt you to be partial toward someone?
- What are some ways that partiality might be expressed in your personal life? Your family life? Your church life? Your community life?
- What can we do to fight against partiality?