

SERMON OUTLINE James 2:8-13

Three Partiality Contrasts

CONTRAST BETWEEN LOVE AND PARTIALITY (8-9)

Love

Partiality

CONTRAST BETWEEN SIN AND SINNER (10-11)

CONTRAST BETWEEN MERCY AND JUDGMENT (12-13)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

In our passage for this morning, we'll see that James continued to focus on the need for loving impartiality by providing three contrasts—love vs. partiality, sin vs. sinner, and mercy vs. judgment. Each of these contrasts helps us see what's at stake in showing favoritism based on the things of earth, in order that we would not show favoritism..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. If James were here right now, what is one question you'd like to ask him about this passage?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how much of a struggle is showing favoritism for you? Why do you think that is?
4. Does it seem obvious to you that love and partiality (as James uses the terms) are incompatible?
5. Does it make sense to you that all of the law is summed up in the single command to love your neighbor as yourself?
6. What are some ways you've tried to love someone apart from the Scripture? How did that go?
7. Would you describe your obedience to God as your eager and earnest desire? Why/not?
8. Have you ever thought of God's laws as expressions of His nature? Does this help you see why failing in one point of the law makes you guilty of all of it?
9. What's your first thought when you see someone in need? Do you tend toward mercy or judgment?
10. Which of James's three contrasts is most helpful to you in obeying his command ("show no partiality")?
11. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Make a list of three people in your life that you are most tempted to show partiality toward. Find one passage in the Bible that tells you how to love each of them. Love them in those ways.
13. Find a specific way for your DG to care for someone who is struggling. Consider talking to the deacons or TFG coordinators.
14. Begin (or get back to) a Bible reading plan.
15. Practice sharing the gospel. Make sure you can easily show how each point is taught in the Bible.
16. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for being merciful and gracious. Praise God for showing no partiality. Praise God for always judging rightly. Praise God for being a God of perfect love. Praise God for teaching us how to love.
18. Confession. Confess any favoritism you are showing. Confess any indifference to God's Word that you find in you. Confess any ways you've wrongly understood the sinfulness of your sin. Confess being judgmental instead of merciful.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing His nature through His commands. Thank God for helping you do what He requires. Thank God for a church that means to help you do what God requires.
20. Supplication. Ask God to make us a church that delights in obeying His Word. Ask God to help you see if there are any of His commands that you are not taking seriously enough.