
#5 “The Royal Law”

James 2:1-13

TODD DUGARD | APRIL 6, 2014

THE
**NO-NONSENSE
GUIDE**
TO AN
**EXTRAORDINARY
CHRISTIAN LIFE**
- THE BOOK OF
JAMES

Warming Up

1. What comes to mind when you hear the words “partiality” or “discrimination”? What are some of the groups of people that commonly experience this?

Digging In

There's no room for discrimination among Christ followers.

2. *It fails to display the glory of Jesus Christ (2:1-4).*
 - Pastor Todd said, “If we are close to God’s people without being close to God, we will eventually screw up those relationships.” Explain this concept. Do you agree or disagree? What is the relationship between “the vertical” and “the horizontal”?
 - James refers to their discrimination as both “evil thoughts” (v. 4) and “sin” (v. 9). Do these assessments seem a bit extreme? Why or why not?
3. *It fails to extend unconditional love to others (2:5-9).*
 - Pastor Todd said, “Generally speaking, more poor people love Jesus than rich people do.” How would you argue for this statement from the text? How would you argue for it from observation/experience? What is your take?
 - Why do we tend to like the rich and powerful? From a spiritual standpoint, how is wealth actually a disadvantage and poverty an advantage? What are the implications for you?
 - Why is the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) referred to here as “the royal law”? What does it look like to “love your neighbour as yourself”? Who is your neighbour?
 - How can it be messy to live in an impartial way? Do you have a personal illustration of this? How does experiencing diversity prepare us for eternity?
4. *It fails to recognize that God will hold us to account (2:10-13).*
 - What type of life did Jesus model for us in the Gospels in terms of partiality (or lack thereof) toward others? Come up with a range of examples. How is this the standard for those who call themselves Christ followers?
 - What does James mean when he calls us to speak and act “as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty”?
 - How does “mercy triumph over judgment” in God’s response to us? What made this possible? How is mercy demonstrated (toward others) evidence of mercy received (from Christ)?

Breaking Out

5. How impartial are you? Be honest with yourself and your small group members. What group do you have difficulty embracing? How can you be more loving and gracious to your neighbours?



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