

# MAN<sup>2</sup>MAN

## Men's FOCUS Group

**FOCUS** Groups are small group meetings that invite interaction and involvement within a pleasant and respectful environment. These groups meet to explore and understand the realities of this world in the light of God's love and truth.

### James Chapter 2

**V1-4** *partiality*-Favoritism, discrimination. We often engage with people in ways that will favor us, thus we show 'favoritism' or partiality to a person. This may be in regard to vocation or hobbies or rank or experience and perhaps we are trying to learn or gain an advantage. The partiality addressed here is the manner of 'kissin up' to some while 'kickin down' others. The main point is that in the body of Christ we are not to 'favor' or discriminate in any way. We are not to treat someone better because we think they look better or perhaps they dress better, or because they have a prominent place in the community or workplace. Jesus showed no partiality! When we 'judge' someone based on their appearance we reveal our carnal inclinations.(v4). (1Corinthians 3:1-9)

Reference: Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 1:17, Deuteronomy 16:19, Mark 12:14

**V5-** Is God showing partiality to the poor? Absolutely not! God's call (invitation) to a man is not about wealth, it is about will! When a person puts his trust in the riches of this world, he is not willing to trust God. (Matthew 6:24)

**V6,7-** Wow! So true even today! Those who wield power and wealth consistently try to gain more power and more wealth often at the expense and the sweat of the poor! Why would we honor the wealthy who are opposed to God? Most of the tech elite power mongers and social media mini-gods are openly and aggressively against God. They insult, mock, and undermine Christians and yet if they showed up in some churches they would be promoted and recognized.

**V8,9-** The "*royal law*" is greater than the 'common law'. Read Luke 10:25-37 to understand what this looks like at street level.

**V10, 11-** Breaking one law means you are a guilty law breaker. If you did not murder, nor commit adultery, yet you show partiality you have broken the *royal law* of love!

**V12-** "*...law of liberty*" Because we have the love of Christ in us, we are enabled to love beyond a natural love. This love frees us from the law of works and introduces us to the *law of liberty*! We are now free and able to love our neighbor with the love of God that is within us as born-again Christians!

*"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."* Romans 12:9

**V13-** You reap what you sow; judge others and you will be judged in the same manner. Show mercy and you will experience mercy! "*Mercy triumphs over judgement*" as proven by the forgiveness that comes through Jesus!

**V14-18** Faith in Christ is a deep personal experience that reveals itself in an outward expression. A person does not do good things (works) in order to be born again, rather a born-again Christian expresses their faith by their actions (works). What you believe will be confirmed by what you do.

**V15, 16-** When legitimate needs are before you and you have the means to help, faith compels you to do something! Do not say to the starving or to the hurting, "I will pray for you" and then walk away from them. Get them a meal, listen to their hurts, show them kindness! Reference-Romans 12:9-16

**V17-** Like a dead fish in the sun, Dead faith stinks!

**V18-** There is always a "YaaBut" around! James addresses the, 'Yeah-But' with, 'Stop talking, start walking!' What you believe is revealed by how you live!

**V19- Tremble-** Means; to bristle, to shudder, to be struck with extreme fear, to be horrified. James is basically saying; 'With your words you say you believe, Big Deal! At the least the demons believe and are smart enough to *tremble*! Unlike many people who piously speak of God with they live with a religious disregard and contempt!'

**V20-** Don't be foolish! Know what you believe and then live out what you have received. Our faith is not meant to be sheltered it is meant to be shared. True faith is to be seen and heard!

**V21, 22-** Abraham had faith and it was expressed in an act of obedience to God. Hebrews 11:17-19.

**V23-** Abraham is an example of the type of faith James is talking about. Notice that the result of 'faith in God', is friendship with God.

**V24-** Faith and works go together; Faith is life, works are living!

**V25-** Another example of faith from the old testament; Rahab. She believed and acted upon that belief. (Joshua 2)

**V26-** Living faith has a visible expression of life. Dead faith; faith without action (works) is just like a lifeless body!

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*"But without it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6