

James Chapter Two

Partiality & Faith That Works



**“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”
(James 2:26)**

Questions For Class Discussion:

1. What does the term “partiality” mean? What are some ways we struggle with this today?
2. Why might one who has a real “faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” refrain from showing partiality? Another way to think of this is: “What about our faith in Jesus would discourage us from showing partiality with others?”
3. In your own words describe the two men who come into the assembly that James pictures and how they are treated. Use your imagination to describe how this might take place today:
4. According to verse 4, when we show partiality, what have we made ourselves? Carrying this to its logical conclusion, whose role are we then usurping?
5. According to this context why is partiality both illogical and inconsistent for the Christian?
6. What is “the royal law” and what makes it royal?
7. Remembering this is talking to Christians, not those under the Old Law, why is a person still considered guilty of all the law if we stumble in one point?
8. How does our knowledge of being “judged under the law of liberty” motivate us to not show partiality in our dealings with others?

9. What is real, Biblical, saving faith?

**“Faith alone justifies...”
(John Calvin)**

10. How does James describe faith that is not active?

**“A person is justified by works
and not by faith alone”
(The Holy Bible – James 2:24)**

11. In what two ways does James illustrate the worthlessness of faith without works?

12. What teachings of Jesus during His ministry on earth can you think of that are very similar to what James is teaching here?

13. **THINK HARD!!!** How can a person put into action their faith that God is ONE (Deut 6:4-5 helps)?

14. Find at least one example where demons freely confessed Christ. How does this, along with James’ teaching about them, contradict many people’s idea of what you have to do to be saved?

15. Many who believe that salvation is by faith only try to justify that doctrine by saying that the justification in this passage has nothing to do with our salvation, but rather is simply the “proving” of our faith to men. Is that idea of justification in this context right or wrong? Why?

16. While James uses Abraham and Rahab to show the importance of putting our faith into action, how can they relate back to the previous verses on not showing partiality?

17. Initially it may seem the teaching of James (James 2:24) and the teaching of Paul (Romans 4:28) contradict one another. Are they really teaching opposing concepts? If not, explain why not (It really helps to study the context).