

Faith That Works It Looks at the Heart

9/23/07



Text: James 2:1-13

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and 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,” ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, 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? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” (ESV)

1. If we own a **FAITH THAT WORKS** we will LOOK AT THE HEART.

The Godly PRINCIPLE – v.1 – S _____ NO
P _____

2. If we own a **FAITH THAT WORKS** we will LOOK AT THE HEART.

The Godly PRINCIPLE – v.5 – **God** has c _____
the **poor**

3. If we own a **FAITH THAT WORKS** we will LOOK AT THE HEART.

The Godly PRINCIPLE – v.8 “*Love your neighbor as yourself...*”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

Who can you sight from history that was both a positive and/or negative example of *showing partiality* (favoritism)?

Check out Galatians 2 and Acts 10 (Peter’s struggles). In addition to those mentioned in the message (entertainment, education, ethnic, etc.), where do you (we) struggle with *partiality*?

Cross references to check out: Matthew 18:21-35; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15...

“Evangelical Christianity tends to have a lot of religion in their hearts, a good bit in their heads, but not much in their feet....” –
(Cook) Agree/Disagree? Why?