

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 2:1-11

For Starting

- Share about a unique or a distinctive habit of yours.
- What is it about certain people that makes it difficult for you to spend time with them?
- What would you say is the hardest thing you have ever done in your life so far?
- What verse or phrase stands out in this Bible passage?

For Reviewing

- What does James say Christians should *not* do (v.1)?
What example does James use to illustrate this (v.2-4)?
Do people do this in our Sunday church services today?
- Compare James' comments (v.5) with Jesus' "manifesto" statement (Luke 4:18-19). Do these statements agree?
- Who are the ones dragging Christians into court (v.6)?
What are they doing to the name of Jesus (v.7)?
Why was it foolish for Christians to honour these people?
- What is the 'Royal Law' (v.8)? Where does this come from?
(see footnote)
- What happens if only 1 point of the Law is broken (v.10-11)?

For Discussion

- To what extent is James' description of the rich valid today?
- Quote: "*Immature people talk about their beliefs, but the mature person lives their faith.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why/why not?
- What are some of the spiritual issues that divide some people but are *not* a problem for you?
- What does it mean to see people through the eyes of Christ?
- On what basis do we tend to judge people? How does Jesus see people?
- What are the motives to loving others as God would want us to love them?
- You could end by reading together James 2:8

James 2:1-11 (NIVUK)

Favouritism forbidden

¹ My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,'¹ you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' also said, 'You shall not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a law-breaker.

¹ Leviticus 19:18