

Pure Religion
Godly Indifference – James 2:1-7
February 25, 2018

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. - **James 2:1**

I. THE LORD OF GLORY

- James has made his main point at the opening of his statement—Jesus is the Lord of glory (Matt. 17:1-8; John 2:11; 11:40; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 3:20-21; Heb. 2:9).
- Jesus' glory is closely tied to God the Father's glory (Acts 7:55; Rom. 16:27; Eph. 1:17).
- The rest of James's thought here is simply an illustration of this opening verse. Verse 7 closes the statement with another "sandwich."

II. RICH MAN – POOR MAN (VSS. 2-4)

- James, like Jesus, decries favoritism and partiality. Financially poor does not mean spiritually bankrupt (Luke 5:12-13; Mark 12:41-43).
- Jesus' disciples were, by and large, from the poor working class.
- Jesus also loved wealthy people (Mark 10:21; Luke 19:1-10).
- To be partial is to judge unjustly (vs. 4; Lev. 19:15-16).

III. LISTEN! WISE UP! (VSS. 5-7)

- On the whole, God has chosen the poor, the weak, and the "unimportant" in this world (Deut. 7:7-8; 1 Cor. 1:26-31).
- We should be wiser than we usually prove ourselves to be. We tend to cater to those who abuse us.
- We are called by an honorable name, the Lord of glory—we should bear that name well.

KNOW: Christ-followers are called to be blind to worldly distinctions and alert to the realities of both life, and life in the Spirit.

DO: Live up to your honorable name.

Recommended Reading:

Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just, by Tim Keller
(LifePoint Library #261 KEL)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 2:1-7

1. What is James's concern in this passage?
2. How common in our churches today is the scenario that he paints?
3. Does God "favor" the poor?
4. What does James seem to want to see happen within local churches?
5. How can LifePoint do a better job at this?
6. How can you do a better job at this?