

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

2. Let's read our primary text. Describe the scene in verses 2-3. Why might this particular example have hit close to home for James' readers?

[This wasn't a hypothetical for James's readers. Many were poor believers scattered among communities where the wealthy held real social and legal power over them \(a dynamic James makes explicit in vv. 6–7\). This scenario exposes how naturally the church can absorb the world's pecking order into its own seating chart.](#)

3. What does James mean when he says favoring the rich man makes believers "judges with evil thoughts" (v.4)? How does God righteous judgement contrast this?

[By treating people differently based on appearance, the congregation has set itself up as a court, ruling on someone's worth before ever hearing a word from them. James calls the reasoning behind that verdict "evil" because it reverses God's own values, exalting what impresses people and dismissing what God himself esteems...the condition of the heart.](#)

4. In v. 5, James reminds his readers that God has chosen "those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom." How does this truth confront the community's favoritism?

[James doesn't romanticize poverty; he points to what God has actually done. Throughout redemptive history, God has repeatedly shown a pattern of choosing the lowly and overlooked to receive his richest promises, not because poverty earns merit, but because it strips away any claim to have deserved God's favor, making grace unmistakably grace.](#)

5. How does James combat the argument that someone might say partiality is a "small" sin?

[In verses 9-11, James answers this by pointing out that the law is not a checklist of separate rules but a reflection of one unified will of God; breaking it at any point makes a person guilty of the whole, just as a single broken link fails an entire chain. Naming adultery and murder, obviously serious sins, alongside partiality forces the reader to stop minimizing favoritism and see it as the same kind of rebellion against God's character.](#)

6. What do you think contributes to our immediate reaction to be partial to a person of perceived status? In contrast, to one who looks poor?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

7. Read verse 13. How does this connect to partiality, and what warning/comfort does it offer?

Favoritism is a failure of mercy, withholding honor and welcome from someone because they have nothing to offer in return. James warns that those who show no mercy to others should not expect to receive it themselves. How we treat the poor and overlooked reveals whether mercy has actually taken root in us. Yet the verse ends not on judgment but triumph: for those in Christ, mercy has the final word.

8. Have you experienced partiality as James describes? Have you yourself been tempted to participate in partiality? What biblical virtue opposes this sin? How can we grow in grace to oppose this sin?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- *Internal*: Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External*: Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

---

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources