

James: A Faith You Can See
All Men Are Created Equal
James 2:1-13

All people are of equal value, as each is a creation of God.

All people are creations of God and are worthy of equal honor, respect, and love (James 3:9), vv. 6, 8.

The distinctions that sinful people give to self and others.

Sinful people have a worth, merit, and value that makes some people superior based on wealth, ethnicity, vocation, nationality, education, and relationships, vv. 2-4.

Sinful people have a bias and prejudice in the treatment of people, vv. 2-4.

Sinful people have a blindness to the sin wealth can produce through, vv. 5-7:

Pride.
A sense of entitlement.
Injustice.

The distinction that Christ gives.

A deep conviction that Jesus alone is worthy of glory, v. 1.

A knowledge that salvation has come by faith alone, not merit, v. 1.

A knowledge that faith itself is a gift (James 1:18), v. 5.

God seems to favor the poor who more easily recognize their need of a Savior, and who have a willingness to bring a childlike trust and obedience, which faith requires.

A knowledge that loving others, guided by the Law and how you would want to be treated if you were the other person, is the standard for all relationships, vv. 8-12.

Love is the royal law, in that it is how God Himself lives and how God empowers others to live, thus fulfilling the Law, v. 8.

Judgment awaits those who reject God and His law to love others, v. 13.

In God and His people, mercy always triumphs over judgment, v. 13.

Welcome to Rolling Hills Covenant Church!

We are a caring community of people who believe the Bible is the Word of God and choose to live by its truth.

**Our mission is to know Jesus intimately
and to share His love and truth passionately.**

July 7-8, 2018

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Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

Following each worship service, members of the prayer team will be available in front of the platform to pray with you and minister to your spiritual needs.

Receivers for the hearing impaired are available from our ushers.

JOIN US NEXT WEEKEND!

SATURDAY: 5pm - Worship Center
SUNDAY: 8 & 9:30am - Worship Center (Choir)
9:30am - 290s
11:15am - Worship Center & 290s

LANGUAGE OPTIONS:

RHCC en Español
Saturday, 5pm, 290s
Japanese Service
Sunday, 11:15am
North Campus Chapel



ARE YOU NEW TO RHCC? Maybe you've been here a while and want to learn more about us. We invite you to come to our *Connect* lunch on Sunday, July 22 at 11:15 am in the Loft. You will be welcomed by our staff, learn about the church's purpose and priorities, and connect with others who are also exploring the church. Come to the Connect tent on the patio for more info.

For more information about what is going on at RHCC this month, pick up a copy of *What's Happening*.

Alpine Attic

Did you know the Covenant denomination has a thrift store? Come to 2115 Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita (near Big Lots) to discover what you can find. All proceeds benefit Alpine Camp. Volunteers are needed to serve a 3.5 hour shift once a month or once a week.

Smilemakers

Come to Room 301 on the North Campus Mondays from 9 am to noon to help make dolls and hats for children in the hospital. Contact Jeannette Martinez at 310.832.7947 for more information.

Singles Coffee House

Singles are invited to come to the North Campus Chapel on Friday, July 13 at 7:30 pm as Pastor Vance Hartzell speaks on "Why Dating is Hard."

Jobs Available

- Global Outreach Admin. Asst. (P/T)
 - Accounting Assistant (P/T)
- Go to RollingHillsCovenant.com/jobs for info.

We're here for you! The pastoral staff at RHCC is available to help you with your marriage, finances, parenting, emotional issues, or if you are in need of prayer. We can also provide recommendations for Christian counseling services in the South Bay. Contact Pastor Nate Aanderud at 310.521.2565 or naanderud@rhcc.net.

Prayer Ministry

Homegoings:

- Please pray for Dorothy Bell and family on the homegoing or her husband, Albert.
- Please pray for Michelle Dunn and family on the homegoing of her mother, Mildred Roberts.

Prayer Chain: Submit prayer requests to Vicki Hardin at Chaplain_Vicki@aol.com or 310.612.7832, by yellow card or at RollingHillsCovenant.com/prayer.

Need a hospital or home visit? Call the Ministers of Congregational Care at 323.825.9694.

Weekly Giving Report (as of July 1)

Giving goal (6/1/18-5/31/19):	\$7,930,000
Budget Needs YTD:	\$591,831
Received YTD:	\$636,045
Over/Under YTD:	\$44,214
Needed last week:	\$103,902
Received last week:	\$118,040

Text any amount to 310.307.3661 to give.

The Declaration of Independence, signed July 4, 1776, is arguably the second most important document in American history. Obviously the most important document in American history, in ways that overwhelmingly are greater than any other, is the Bible. But the Declaration of Independence put some Biblical truths into its writing. The Declaration of Independence opens with these words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. - That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." The foundational truth that everyone has the right to life, and it is the purpose of government to preserve life, is the foundational truth of government.

It is in the violation of that right to life of all that, in the case of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruled that a woman had the right to take the life of her baby. Since that ruling in 1973 nearly 60,540,000 babies have been killed. There have been about 469,000 abortions in the USA this year alone. Each one of those was a person gifted with life from God. There is no question that life begins at conception. Each one of those children was promised by the Declaration of Independence as having the right to life. God alone has the right to life. No one has the right to take a life – not a mother, not a doctor, not a government.

One way God showed that a baby has the right to life in the Old Testament law was, if a woman who was pregnant was injured, there were legal consequences. But if the unborn baby died, the person who caused that death was to be put to death, Exodus 21:26-27. It is the principle of a life for a life. If the blood of innocent Abel cried out from the ground for the judgment of God, what will the blood of over 60 million babies be saying to Him, Genesis 4:10?

There are those who present this as if it were a woman's rights issue. The growing unborn baby, in this opinion, is just an appendage to her body. It is not a life in this theory until birth. Yet, by every knowledge science can give us, we know the unborn baby is not an appendage, it is a life. We know unborn babies can think and feel. And by God's Word, no woman has the right to take her baby's life. No one has the right to decide who lives and who doesn't. No baby is unwanted by God.

All of this is important right now as the President has the chance, through the appointment of a Supreme Court justice, to enable the justices who uphold the right of a baby to life to become the majority. There is an opinion by some that Roe v. Wade is settled law and should not be reversed. Yet we know in the past the evil of segregation was upheld by the Supreme Court in its "separate but equal" ruling for school children. That principle was rightly overturned when the Court ruled that segregated schools are not equal, and that schools must be racially integrated. For the Supreme Court to rule that the life of an unborn baby is a greater right than any supposed right of a woman to have her baby put to death would mean that, at last, the principle of the right to life would again apply in the Law to an unborn child.

Let's pray the President has the wisdom to make the right choice for a Supreme Court justice. Let's pray for Senate affirmation of the candidate and for wisdom for the Court in how to assure the right of the unborn to life. Let's also be sure, in Law and in practice, the right of children to life and liberty is upheld in our practices after they are born. Let's pray that any governmental program to separate children from their parents at the border is ended. Let's pray that the children who have been separated are quickly restored to their parents. Let's do all we can to uphold the right of all to life and liberty.

~ Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald

Pastor Byron welcomes your questions/comments at bmacdonald@rhcc.net