

Home group discussion questions—24th January 2016

'Live it out' James 2:1-13

(For those who meet fortnightly combine these with last week's study notes or, perhaps preferably, chose one of the two studies).

Read: James 2: 1-13

1. The whole passage flows from the opening instruction of v.1. How would you define favouritism and how is it to be distinguished from prejudice and 'natural affinity'? How does James' stark example in v.2-4 help define it?
2. Brainstorm the number of biblical examples you can think of involving favouritism.
3. James goes on to outline why favouritism is so inappropriate and incompatible for 'believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ'. Identify from this whole passage what you think James main arguments are.
4. Look more closely at v.5. Why is God's election not favouritism? Read Deuteronomy 10:14-19 and particularly note v.17.
5. What place has the 'royal law' (v.8-11) in the new covenant? How does it bring freedom? (v.12)
6. Read v.12-13. In what sense is our final judgement to be based on how we have treated others?
7. In what areas as a local church are we in danger of showing favouritism....and particularly against the poor?
8. Can you suggest practical ways as a church we can combat cliques and showing preferential treatment to some? Feed your ideas back please.

Pray for a deepening of love in practical ways for those who are very different to us.

