

Growth Group Lesson: October 21-22, 2023

Title: James: Do the Bible, Pt 4: “Do to Others with God” – James 2:1-13

Big Idea: Do to others with God for His glory and reject partiality because it is contrary to God’s choice, God’s law, and God’s mercy.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read James 2:1-13. What questions do you have?

1. Show no partiality – James 2:1

Read James 2:1. How would you define partiality?

John Piper defines partiality like this: *“Partiality means that you base your treatment of someone - or your attitude toward someone - on something that should NOT be the basis of how you treat them.”* Based on this definition (or your own), have you ever been on the receiving end of partiality? Share your story. How did it make you feel?

What are some of the wrongful standards for how to treat people that you see in the world today? Why are these standards wrong?

Does God ever show partiality? (See Romans 2:11 and Acts 10:34-35 for help answering).

If God never shows partiality, then what is the basis for how God treats people?

2. Do to others FOR THE GLORY OF GOD – James 2:1

Read James 2:1 again. What does it mean to say that Jesus is the “Lord of glory?” What does this have to do with showing partiality?

React to the statement: “Showing partiality is about glorifying some human distinctive (like riches or race) rather than glorifying God.” Explain why you agree or disagree.

It is clear from scripture that the glory of God is the basis for how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit treat people, and they call us to follow them this (see John 17:4 and 1 Cor. 10:31). What do you think it means to “do to others for the glory of God?” How does the example of Jesus’ life on earth help you answer?

3. Partiality is EVIL – James 2:2-4

Read James 2:2-4. What is the basis for how people are being treated in this passage? Why do you think they were being treated this way?

Why does James say that partiality comes from “evil thoughts?”

Are you in danger of showing partiality in some way? How?

Do you see any partiality in our church? In what ways? How can we change this?

Read Romans 3:9 and Romans 3:23-24. Based on these passages, what is the qualifier to receiving the mercy of God?

4. Partiality is contrary to God's choice – James 2:5

Read James 2:5. How is this verse a powerful corrective to partiality?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-27. React to this verse. What stands out to you? What questions do you have?

In what ways does being poor or powerless actually help people rather than hinder them when it comes to a relationship with God?

5. Partiality is misguided – James 2:6-7

Read James 2:6-7. What do you think is James' point in these verses?

Why do people generally show partiality? Does it usually give them the result that they want? Why or why not?

6. Partiality is contrary to God's Law – James 2:8-11

Read James 2:8-11. What are some things you observe in these verses?

Read Luke 10:30-37. Who broke God's law in this passage? How did they break it? What does this reveal to you about the sin of partiality?

Read Matthew 5:43-47. What does this passage reveal to you about the sin of partiality?

7. Partiality is contrary to God's mercy – James 2:12-13

Read James 2:12-13. How is partiality an act of judgment? Why do you think someone who shows no mercy will receive no mercy from God? What does this reveal about how God's mercy should affect us?

"Next Steps" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Will you ask God to show you the sin of partiality in your own life and what is behind it? Will you confess it as sin and ask for His help to pursue love instead?
- With Others:
 - Will you intentionally pursue love this week for someone who is different from you or can't benefit you? How can you love them with your words, actions, or prayers?
- On Mission:
 - Will you intentionally share the Good News about Jesus this week with an unbeliever who is different from you or can't benefit you? Will you invite them to church?