

HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE

James 2:1-13

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE KIND OF COMMUNITY WE ARE CALLED TO BE
2. THE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BECOME THIS KIND OF COMMUNITY
3. THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO BECOME THIS KIND OF COMMUNITY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Most people in our culture would agree to the ideas in James that we shouldn't show favoritism and that we should care for those in need. Do you think it is necessary to have a Christian worldview to be able to live this way? Why or why not?
3. In James 2, we see how seriously God takes it when we show favoritism based on external factors. Looking at someone's wealth is one example James gives of how we can show favoritism. What are some other external factors about people that can distract you and lead you into showing favoritism?
4. James gives two reasons for why we should be a community of justice and mercy. The first is that when we show favoritism it changes who we are as we become like judges who take bribes. How does favoritism have this kind of impact on those showing the favoritism?
5. The second reason for why we should become a community of justice and mercy is that the sins of favoritism and indifference to the poor make us just as guilty of breaking God's law as adultery and murder do. What are some implications for us if this is how God views our sin?
6. What might it look like to be a church that is more committed to the poor than the most liberal churches and more committed to personal purity than the most conservative churches? (**Note:** Think through practical aspects of what a group of people like this would do, say, stand for, avoid and what kind of criticism they might receive from both sides.)
7. Jesus is called the "Lord of Glory" in James 2:1. The idea of glory indicates weight/ significance. Have you ever been "shattered" under the weight (glory) of a personal encounter with the living God? If so, what was it like? Why would having an encounter with the Lord of Glory have any impact on us being a community of justice and mercy?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: The only way to become a community of justice and mercy like we are called to be is to see that the Lord of Glory willingly gave up His glory for us.