

James 2
Faith and Works

I. Respect of persons (1-7).

A. The principle stated (vs.1).

1. An imperative (stop doing it).
2. Based on our faith in X of glory (shekinah).
 - a. He showed no partiality in his life.
 - b. His salvation is offered without partiality.

B. The principle applied (2-4).

1. Parable of partiality.
 - a. Rich man enters the meeting (synagogue) – sits in front.
 - b. Poor man enters the meeting – sits on the floor in back.
2. Result of showing partiality.
 - a. Internal division, envy, and quarreling.
 - b. We become judges with evil thoughts.

C. Rhetorical questions (5-7) (show they were meeting with unsaved Jews in the synagogue).

1. Election.
 - a. Poor are rich toward God (Lk.12:21).
 - b. Poor are heirs of the kingdom.
2. Oppression by the rich.
3. Sacrilege – acting against the Xns.

II. The royal law of love (8-13).

A. The problem (8-9).

1. True love does what is right.
2. Favoritism breaks the law (Le.19:15-18).

B. Guilty of the whole law.

C. Correct guide of action (12-13).

1. The spirit, not the letter, of the law.
 - a. Brings freedom.
 - b. Not like the Pharisees who devoured widows' houses.
 - c. Remembering that our acts will be judged (1 Co. 3:10-15).
 - d. But freedom is not a license to sin (1 Pe. 2:16).
2. Our own judgment.
 - a. Merciless to the merciless.
 - b. Mercy to the merciful.

III. Faith and action (14-26).

A. Dead faith (14-17).

1. Faith must result in action.
2. Faith without action is not faith at all.
 - a. Does not contradict Paul – Paul speaks of salvation.
 - b. James speaks of practical Xnity.

B. Factual knowledge is not faith (18-19).

1. Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God.
2. Even the demons know about God (Mt. 8:29).
3. Deeds prove faith.

C. Examples of faith producing works (20-25) (cf. 1 Jo. 2:3-6).
(foolish = ignorant, hypocritical, empty, vain)

1. Abraham.

- a. Had faith (Ge. 15:6).
- b. Works (Ge. 22) (cf. He. 11:17-19).
- c. Friend of God = a righteous person.

2. Rahab.

- a. Farthest from Abraham as possible – a prostitute.
- b. Had faith in the God of Israel (Josh. 2:11).
- c. Her faith led to works – hiding the spies (cf. He. 11:31).

IV. Conclusion (26).

- A. Just as the spirit and the body are a unity,
- B. So faith and works are a unity.