

How To Practice Truth & Past The Test – James 2:1-13

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Introduction

1. Not only are the mature Christians patient in trials and testing (James 1) they also practices the truth. This is the theme of James 2 where immature people talk about their beliefs while the mature lives his/her faith.
2. James wanted us to practice God's word so he gave us a simple test as an example. There was two visitors to a church service one poor and the other rich. The way we treated them showed what we really believe about God.
 - a. In this section James examines four basic doctrines in light of the way we treat people...

I. The Deity Of Christ (2:1-4)

- a. Jesus did not respect persons. (Matthew 26:16)
- b. Jesus was despised and rejected. (Isaiah 53:1-3)
 - i. Jesus was poor and rejected yet He is the very glory of God (John 1:14)
- c. How do we practice the deity of Christ in our relationships?
 - i. Look at everyone through the eyes of Jesus are not our own. If a Christian we love and accept him because Christ lives in Him. If not a Christian we receive him because Christ died for Him.

II. The Grace Of God (2:5-7)

- a. God ignores national differences (Acts 10:34; 15; Romans 2:6-16; 10:1-13)
- b. God ignores social differences (Ephesians 6:9; James 1:9-11; 1 Samuel 2:7-8)
 - i. God chooses the poor to be rich in faith (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)
- c. How do we practice the grace of God in our relationships?
 - i. Despise no one especially the poor, uneducated, old, educated, young and rich.

III. The Word Of God (2:8-11)

- a. Leviticus 19:18 – Love your neighbor as yourself.
 - i. Who is my neighbor – anyone who needs our help (Luke 10:25-37)
 - ii. It is not about geography but opportunity. To whom can I be a neighbor?
 - iii. Loving your neighbor as yourself means treating others the way God treated me
- b. How do we practice the Word of God in our relationships?
 - i. Love never leaves the person where it finds him. Love will help the poor do better, the rich give more. Love always builds up (1 Cor 8:1)
 - ii. We only believe as much of the bible as we practice. If we fail to practice the royal law we cannot do any good with the lesser matters of the Word.

IV. The Judgment Of God (2:12-13)

- a. Our words will be judged. (James 2:3; Matthew 12:34-37; 5:21-26, 33-37)
- b. Our deeds will be judged. (Colossians 3:22-25)
- c. Our attitudes will be judged. (v13)
- d. How do we practice the judgment of God in our relationships?
 - i. If we really believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that God is gracious, His word is true and one day He will judge us, then our conduct will reveal our convictions. Can we pass the tests?