

James: Practical Discipleship for Everyone

2. James 2

Aim: To consider how we treat others and to what extent, for good or bad, our behaviour speaks of our beliefs.

1. Share a story with your cell about a time that you showed favouritism—whether blatantly or subtly.
2. Read through Jas 2.1-13. What exactly is wrong with favouritism? (Jas 2.9 says its wrong but doesn't say why.)
3. Read Jas 2.14-26, which is about faith and works. Is there a connection between this and the favouritism that is condemned in the first half of the chapter (vv 1-13)?
4. How would you explain the tension/balance between faith and works to a new Christian? (If you think one deserves priority over the other, explain why.)
5. Look up these verses in Paul's letters: Eph 2.8-9; Gal 2.16; Rom 3.28. Compare them with Jas 2.24. Are Paul and James contradicting one another? How should we reconcile Paul's words with Jas 2.24?
6. Take some time to reflect quietly (or to music) and pray about any area of your life where you keep your beliefs separate from your lifestyle. If you feel comfortable asking for prayer on this issue, please do.