



Life Group Questions

Faith Shows No Partiality

James 2:1-13
January 29, 2017

GETTING TO KNOW ME

- Name and discuss any discriminatory practices, overt or covert, that may exist today (a) in our society, and (b) in our churches?
- Have you personally experienced any form of discrimination? If so, share with your group about it as appropriate.

INTO THE BIBLE

- What was the "Introduction" to the sermon? Can you think of other words that are incompatible to be used in conjunction with the word "Christian"? After you have exhausted your own ideas, read Proverbs 6:16-19 to come up with additional words.
- The word "partiality or partial" appears in the following Scriptures. Select a few of them; then read and discuss what types of partiality God (and by implication, we) are not to show?
 - Acts 10:34
 - Romans 2:11
 - Exodus 23:3
 - Leviticus 19:15
 - Deuteronomy 1:17; 10:17-20; 16:18-20
 - Job 13:10
 - Proverbs 18:5; 24:23; 28:21
 - Luke 20:21
 - Galatians 2:6
 - Ephesians 6:9
 - Colossians 3:25
 - 1 Timothy 5:21

- Discuss the similarities and differences between "discerning" things about someone and "dishonoring" someone.
 - Read Acts 5:17-42. In verse 41, we read that the apostles left the council "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name" of Christ. In what ways were the apostles dishonored by the council?
 - Read Acts 8:9-24. Discuss if the conversation in verses 18-24 is "discerning" by the apostle Peter or "dishonoring" of Simon the magician. Why?
 - What biblical criteria would you use to ensure that you are "discerning" and not "dishonoring" in all that you say and do?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between "discerning" and "judging."
 - Read Luke 7:36-50. Discuss how/why Jesus and the Pharisee are judging the woman differently? What lessons can we learn from it and apply in our lives today?
- Read the following Scripture passages, discuss what the discrimination was, and how they were addressed. What lessons can we learn from these and apply in our lives today?
 - Acts 6:1-7
 - Galatians 2:11-14

APPLICATION

- How do you react to the statement, "When Jesus becomes Lord of your life, you forfeit forever the right to choose whom you will love."¹
- Can you think of situations in which you may have knowingly or unknowingly shown partiality by your speech or actions? Bring those to the LORD and seek His forgiveness.

FOOTNOTE:

¹ W. Oscar Thompson, Jr. and Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann, *Concentric Circles of Concern: Seven Stages for Making Disciples*, page 153.

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