

**Invite Them... As You Extend the Father's Mercy**  
**James 1:26-2:13**

**Setting the Stage (James 1:26-27)**

**1. Avoid Worthless Religion (1:26)**

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

**2. Practice True Religion (1:27)**

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**Deut. 10:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, **who is not partial** and takes no bribe. <sup>18</sup> He executes **justice for the fatherless and the widow**, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:15b-18**

<sup>15</sup> "You shall *not be partial* to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.... You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, *but you shall love your neighbor as yourself*: I am the LORD.

**The Sin of Partiality (James 2:1-13)**

**1. Exhortation: Show No Partiality (2:1)**

<sup>1</sup> My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

**2. Illustration: A Corporate Worship Gathering (2:2-4)**

<sup>2</sup> For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**3. Explanations: Why We Must Not Show Partiality (2:5-13)**

***A: It is inconsistent with God's regard for the poor (2:5)***

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

***B: It makes no sense (2:6-7)***

<sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

***C: It violates the royal law of love (2:8-13)***

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Matthew 25:41-46**

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**Application for Living on Mission**

- 1. Let's care for the fatherless and the powerless, as God our Father has cared for us.**
- 2. Let's invite and welcome all types of people into our corporate worship gatherings.**
- 3. Let's point all types of people to our Merciful God, who welcomes poor sinners like us into His family, through faith in Christ Jesus, the Lord of Glory.**