

On Being Just, Part 3

A Study of James 2:1-13

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. **2** For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, **3** and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? **5** Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? **7** Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? **8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. **11** For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty. **13** For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. *NASB*

Big Idea:

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NASB

For Reflection & Discussion

1. What is the basic idea of honoring the vulnerable?
2. Why is it important to honor the vulnerable?
3. A “god-complex” was defined as, “a subtle and unconscious sense of superiority in which we believe we are better-off through our own efforts and we have been anointed to decide what is best for those worse-off, whom we view as inferior to ourselves.” To what extent do you think you might have a god-complex? Don’t answer too quickly.
4. What’s the danger of a god-complex when helping the vulnerable?
5. When we do things for people that they can do for themselves, is this honoring or dishonoring? Why?
6. Read the following Scriptures. How are they related to James 2:1-13?
 - a. Genesis 1:27
 - b. Leviticus 19:15
 - c. 1 Samuel 16:7
 - d. Acts 10:34
 - e. Acts 15:8-9
 - f. Romans 2:11
7. We considered the following diagram for use in thinking through how to care for the vulnerable. Think of a vulnerable person or group you know. How does the diagram help you think about how to care for them? Be specific.



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