

Chapter 2 >>>

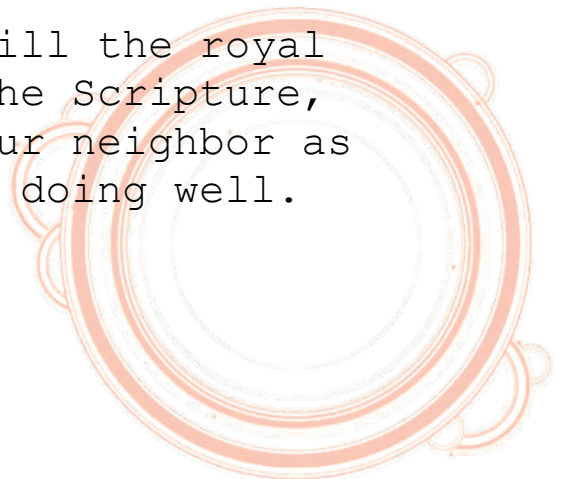


Playing favorites

Celebrities expect special treatment. The lunch line rules don't apply to them, whether they're in a cafeteria or on a nationally televised event. Certain people assume they will receive preferential treatment. Where did they get that idea? Why does someone think that they are exempt from waiting, bad seats or leftovers? Perhaps it's because we train them to think that way.

Key verse:

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
James 2:8



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2:1-13



Playing favorites

1) What does our partiality say to God?

2) How has God honored the "poor in the world" (v.5)?

3) In what ways does a person's outward appearance affect you?

4) What does an impartial welcome in the church look like?

5) How would you illustrate the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (v.8)?

6) What have other Christians done for you to make you feel welcome or accepted?

7) Name some specific "humble jobs" that might need doing in your church that you could do. Which ones will you do? When will you do them?

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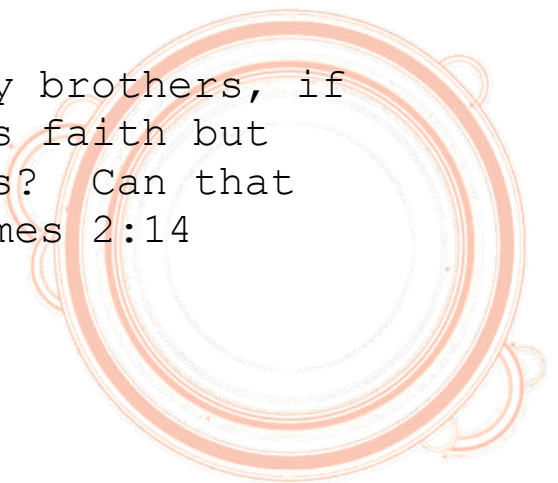


Faith that Works

People often try to apply a common-sense approach to heaven. They don't feel good enough to deserve heaven and they don't think their faith is strong enough to get them there, so they come to a widely held conclusion: God must grade on the curve. He can not take in everybody, so He'll take in those who have done the most good. Could that be right? What matters most, faith or effort? And how much faith or effort is enough?

Key verse:

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? James 2:14



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2:14-26



Faith that Works

1) How would you explain the relationship between faith and works?

2) What's the difference between dead faith and living faith?

3) What kind of "faith" do demons have?

4) Were, if anyplace, does James allude to "faith in works" as opposed to "faith without works" or "faith that works"?

5) How does James use Abraham and Rahab to teach about living faith?

6) How does James use the relationship of body and spirit to teach about faith and works?

7) In what ways does your faith work?