

Life Group Notes (Part 6)

How to treat people right:

Read James 2:1-13

Other Scriptures: 1 Sam. 16:7; Gal. 3:28; Philemon, 1 John 4:20; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 15:7; 2 Phil. 2:3-5; 1 Thess. 5:11.

1. What emotion does James' hypothetical story (see v2-4) cause in you? Why?
2. In which ways might people discriminate against others in society today? Have you ever been discriminated against? Why? How did it make you feel?
3. "The Church must be the one place on earth which is the truly classless society." Thoughts?
4. Why were Paul's words about Onesimus (see Philemon v16) so incredible?
5. Mahatma Gandhi was not allowed entry into a church in Calcutta because he was neither white nor a higher caste Indian. This prevented him from further enquiring about Jesus, saying "I'd be a Christian if it were not for the Christians!" Whilst we would never prevent anyone worshipping with us, how might we turn others away from pursuing Christ?
6. If we truly understand God's grace, we will never be ungracious to others. Thoughts?
7. What is the Royal Law? Why might James refer to it in this way?
8. What does James say to those who might argue that showing favouritism isn't such a big deal? (see esp. v9-11)
9. Does God's future judgment impact your thinking, actions and general behaviour? (see v12-13; 2 Cor. 5:10)
10. Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear of hate them. The second is that to love someone means that you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate. Thoughts?
11. How should we respond to James' teaching?