



Faith in Action

Doing Well

Doers of the Word

- ^{ESV} **James 1:21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves... ²⁵ ..., being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
- ^{NIV} **Romans 12:2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

A Work in Progress

- **Philippians 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for God is the working one in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 1:6** For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- *“Consider to what great blessedness God will carry you. He will not only keep you safe from enemies, but will bring you to Himself.”*
 - Jonathan Edwards

I. The Problems with Partiality

Partiality is Forbidden

- ^{NAS} **James 2:1** My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.
 - Favoritism – partiality, lit., “receiving the face”
 - i.e., judging by outward appearances
- Partiality is forbidden because it is ...
 1. Incompatible with genuine Christianity (v.1,5)
 2. Foolish (v.6-7)
 3. Sin (v.9-13)

1. Partiality and Christianity; Incompatible

- ^{NAS} **James 2:1** My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism...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?

1. Partiality does not manifest the glory of God because God is impartial (v.1)
2. Partiality does not imitate God who has compassion on the lowly (v.5)

God is Impartial

- ^{NAS} **Romans 2:11** For there is no partiality with God.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 6:9** And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.
- ^{NAS} **Colossians 3:25** For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
- ^{NAS} **Acts 10:34** And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:17** And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth;

God has Compassion of the Lowly

- ^{NAS} **Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 1:26** For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹ that no man should boast before God.

2. Partiality is Foolish

- ^{NAS} **James 2:6** 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?

3. Partiality is Sin

- ^{NAS} **James 2:9** 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.

II. Judging Rightly

Judging Rightly

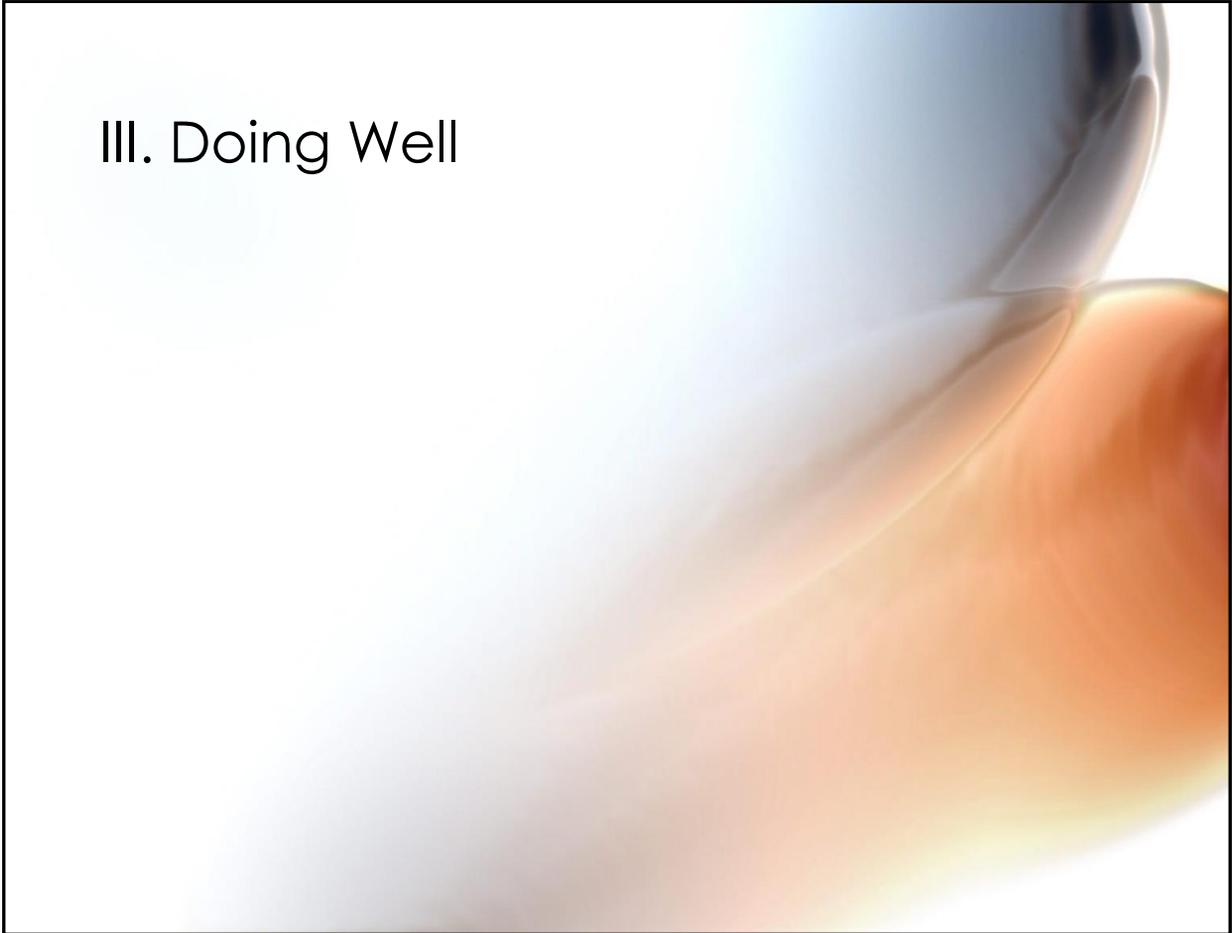
- ^{NAS} **James 2:4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 7:1** "Do not judge lest you be judged. ² "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³ "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 5:9** I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; ¹⁰ I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹ But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? ¹³ But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.
- ^{NAS} **2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us... ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. ¹⁵ And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

James as a Role Model

- ^{NAS} **James 2:1** My brethren ...⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren ...
¹³ ... mercy triumphs over judgment.
- ^{NAS} **Ezekiel 33:7** "Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth, and give them warning from Me. ⁸ "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. ⁹ "But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your life... ¹¹ "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

III. Doing Well



Practical Christian Living

- ^{NAS} **James 2:8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 22:37** And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ 'This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ 'The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ 'On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

Law of Love

- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- ^{NAS} **Romans 13:8** Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.
- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 4:8** Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Conclusion

Doing Well

- ^{NAS} **James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- ^{NAS} **James 2:8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

By Our Love

- ^{NAS} **John 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- ^{NAS} **1 John 5:2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 6:1** Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.