

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Impartial, Not Partial****APPLY // JAMES 1:22-27**

**Main Idea:** Authentic Christianity results in doing the Word not hearing it only.

1. Read James 1:12-27.
2. Notice that verse 12 begins with “blessed” and verse 25 speaks of being “blessed.” What does this tell us about the purpose of James’ instruction in these verses? What is James teaching us about the “blessed” life? Consider how Psalm 1 teaches these same ideas.
3. In verses 22-24, James is concerned that we might hear the word but fail to it. What tempts us to hear the word but not do it? How is this deceiving to ourselves?
4. Notice that James describes God’s law as perfect and as giving liberty/freedom. Is this the way we typically think about God’s word? Why or why not? How can we become more aware that God’s word frees us? How does the gospel free us?
5. What are some ways gospel community helps us not only hear but do the word?
6. What examples of doing the word does James give in verses 26-27? How do these actions show God’s character, and help us show that we are indeed first fruits of his creatures (v. 18)?

**OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 2:1-13**

**Main Idea:** Authentic Christianity leads us to live impartially toward all because this is how God treats us in Christ.

1. Read James 2:1-13.
2. In 2:1 James commands Christians to “show no partiality.” Define partiality.
3. James describes Jesus as “the Lord of glory.” What does this description mean? How does this reality of who Jesus is help us show no partiality.
4. In verses 2-3, James provides an illustration of partiality. What’s happening in this hypothetical scenario? What might this look like today?
5. Verse 4 contains confronting questions:
  - a. What does James mean when he says, “have you not then made distinctions among yourselves”? What types of distinctions are okay? What type are sinful?
  - b. What does James mean when he says the people have “become judges with evil thoughts”? What type of judging is okay? What type of judging is evil?
6. James roots his teaching in who God is and what God has done. What does verse 5 tell us about how God acts?
7. What is James’ point in verses 6-7? Is he saying we should treat the poor better than the rich?
8. Describe the contrast between verse 8 and verse 9.
9. According to verses 9-11, how serious is the sin of showing partiality?
10. What is James’ point in verse 10 when he says, “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of it all”? In what way does failing the law at just one point make us guilty of breaking all of it?
11. Notice in verse 12, James addresses words and actions. Why does James connect both speech and actions to not showing partiality?
12. When we are tempted to show partiality what should we remember from verse 12? How did God judge us under the law of liberty?
13. What does it mean that “mercy triumphs over judgment”?

14. In what ways do we see Jesus living out chapter 2:1-13?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Follow up from previous weeks.