

Faith Alive!

Impressed By What?

James 2:1-7

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Our 3-step Approach to the Bible:

- **Observation**
What does the passage say?
- **Interpretation**
What it mean?
- **Application**
What difference does it make to me?

Impressed by What? - James 2:1-7

Observation: What is he saying?

- **Context: living out the truth in real life**

- See 1:22, 26
- Being “unspotted by the world” made practical...
- A litmus test for worldliness

What are we impressed with about people and how does that affect us?

Impressed by What? - James 2:1-7

Observation: What is he saying?

- Context: living out the truth in real life
- Main idea: no partiality or favoritism (vs. 1)
 - ‘Show partiality’ = ‘face’ + ‘elevate, lift up’
to lift up someone’s face, showing special favor or respect
 - Showing appropriate respect is right, not wrong
 - ‘honor to whom honor is due’ (Rom 13:7)
 - the older and wiser (Lev 19:32)
 - spiritual leaders (I Thess 5:12,13)
 - government officials (Rom 13)

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Observation: What is he saying?

- Context: living out the truth in real life
- Main idea: no partiality or favoritism (vs. 1)
 - Show ‘partiality’ = ‘face’ + ‘elevate, lift up’
to lift up someone’s face, showing special favor or respect
 - Showing appropriate respect is right, not wrong
 - But not favoritism/partiality based on external things –
treating people differently because of wealth,
influence, social status, appearance, prestige,
special abilities, etc.

Impressed by What? - James 2:1-7

Observation: What is he saying?

Interpretation: What did this mean to them?

- The illustration (vs. 2-3)
 - One person with outward signs of social standing, wealth, influence, prestige – ‘Here, take the best seat...’
 - Another person showing signs of just the opposite – ‘Go squat on the floor...’

Impressed by What? - James 2:1-7

Observation: What is he saying?

Interpretation: What did this mean to them?

- The illustration (vs. 2-3)
- The correction (vs. 4-7)
 - How unlike God it is to discriminate! (vs 4)
 - Acting like crooked, biased judges – the world's way
 - Impartiality – a divine attribute! Deut 10:17; Matt 22:16

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Observation: What is he saying?

Interpretation: What did this mean to them?

- The illustration (vs. 2-3)
- The correction (vs. 4-7)
 - How unlike God it is to discriminate! (vs 4)
 - How inappropriate for believers, of all people, to look down on ‘the little guy’! (vs. 5-6a)
 - God has one set of scales: concerning sin, judgment, salvation, etc. all people treated the same (Rom 2)
 - God gives grace to the humble and opposes the proud (James 4:6)
 - Not many wise, rich, noble (I Cor 1:26)

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Observation: What is he saying?

Interpretation: What did this mean to them?

- The illustration (vs. 2-3)
- The correction (vs. 4-7)
 - How unlike God it is to discriminate! (vs 4)
 - How inappropriate for believers, of all people, to look down on ‘the little guy’! (vs. 5-6a)
 - How irrational to look up to those who slander God’s name and abuse God’s people! (vs. 6b-7)

Impressed by What? - James 2:1-7

Observation: What is he saying?

Interpretation: What did this mean to them?

Application: What does this mean to us?

- *To what extent may we be guilty of discrimination & partiality?*
- *What are you impressed by?*
To what are you drawn?
What do you really value?