

## Discussion Questions:

What do you think the root motivation for partiality/discrimination is?

List 3 external characteristics that particularly impress you.

Why do these external characteristics matter so much to you?

What does a prejudiced or racist or discriminating believer reveal to the world about who God is?

Since we are generally blind to our own problems, how can we determine if we are prejudiced against others?

What are 2 steps you can take to avoid discrimination?

## Good Discrimination, Bad Discrimination

James 2:1-7

*Discrimination* has two distinct meanings; one positive and the other negative. On the one hand, we should be more and more discerning (good discrimination) the more mature we grow in Christ. But on the other hand, we should be growing less prejudicial (bad discrimination).

### A Plain Instruction

James is referring to bad discrimination; discrimination based on external factors. His command is simple: Don't treat people different based on external characteristics. This practice appears to have been happening already because he is telling them to "Stop discriminating against one another."

### A Practical Illustration

I'm sure some of the believers were thinking, "Well, I don't do that." So, James gives a very basic illustration of how believers within the church discriminate. In his illustration, two men enter the assembly. One of the men is obviously rich, and the other is obviously poor. What happens? The rich man is given the good seat, and the poor man is forced to sit on the ground. Though the illustration James uses is wealth, believers discriminate in many other ways, including race, gender and personality.

### A Piercing Interrogation

Having given the command and illustrated it, James then asks some very pointed questions, forcing us to draw personal conclusions. His questions reveal the wickedness of discrimination that dwells in our own heart and how prejudice is antithetical to the character and work of God.