

Becoming Mature in Christ

Rich Man – Poor Man

James 2:1-13

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Introduction:

- When we began this series we spoke about patience, both spiritual and otherwise.
 - Maturing in Christ is not only about growing in our patience, but also about practicing the Truth of God in our life, as well.
 - Practicing the Truth of God is the theme of **James 2**.
 - Hearing the Word of God ... Talking about the Word of God, can never substitute for DOING the Word of God.
 - Every person who becomes part of the family of God responds to the Terms of Pardon:
 - Believing –
 - Faith –
 - Repenting –
 - Confessing –
 - Baptized –
 - What is the confession of Faith?
 - *“I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and I accept Him as my personal Lord and Savior.”*
 - Our Confession of Faith must lead to us doing what God says.
 - We cannot say that we love Jesus and yet hate our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - **1st John 1:4:20**
 - **James 2:1-13**
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1. Consider the Love of Christ:

- a. **James 2:1**
- b. The Pharisees and the Sadducees loved recognition ... And many today do, as well.
- c. While it is not wrong to want to do well, Christians must be careful ... But why must we be careful?
 1. Because we are servants of God and only He deserves our recognition, praise, and honor.
- d. Some studies say that small groups form cliques within a church, which can lead to issues and isolation.
- e. People want to feel loved and like they are part of something bigger than themselves – the church is the best place for this.
- f. In the church, it makes no difference who you are, we are all called to be His servants to change the world for Christ.
- g. Do you want to be part of that Body with the mission to change the world?

- h. Even Jesus Himself did not show favoritism.
- i. It is good for you and me to know that Jesus sees the potential in the life of a sinner. Consider the following:
 - 1. *Simon Peter* –
 - 2. *Matthew* –
 - 3. *The woman at the well* –
- j. Jesus was a friend to everyone. He did not care about your economic status or your past.
- k. It was not compromise that caused Jesus to do this ... It was His compassion.
- l. There is only one thing that can keep you from the love of God – That is you.
- m. Think about how scripture describes Jesus to you and me: **Isaiah 53:1-3**

2. Consider the Grace of God:

- a. If God's grace were based on whether we deserved it or not, we would all be in trouble.
- b. But thanks be to God, it is not.
- c. **John 3:16**
- d. The poor of this world can become rich in faith.
- e. **James 2:5**

3. Consider the Word of God:

- a. **James 2:8**
- b. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said our neighbor is anyone who needs help.
- c. The important question is not, "*Who is my neighbor?*" ... It is, "*To whom can I be a neighbor?*"
- d. **Mark 12:31**
- e. **Romans 5:5**
- f. Christian love is treating others the way that God has treated me.
- g. If we treat others the way God treats us, we will bring honor and glory to Him.

4. Consider God's Judgement:

- a. We will give an account - **2nd Corinthians 5:10**
 - 1. Our words will be judged – **Matthew 12:36**
 - 2. Our works will be judged –
 - 3. Our attitudes will be judged – **Matthew 6:14-15**
- b. **John 3:16**