

1. As wise believers, we should reject favoritism (2:1-4)
 - a. What we believe is demonstrated through what we do. We have to be careful when we treat people with more respect based on our perception of their status.
 - b. Poor people in the early church were told to sit on the floor, “under” people’s footstools. That is, they were told they were beneath footstools or beneath people’s feet. We should take care to love and highly regard the poor, impoverished, and rejected.
2. God honors poor people more than we do. (2:5-7)
 - a. James explains that those who are poor but rich in faith are honored by the Lord. God’s people, in general, are considered the poor because of their conditions (Isaiah 61:1). And Jesus came to preach to God’s people as the poor (Luke 6:20). But then, there are the materially impoverished among the people of God and God tells us to take care of them.
 - b. The wealthy in the ancient world had advantages that often pitted them in conflict with the aims of the gospel. As it is today, wealth can buy “justice.” Wealth can gain you friends and opportunities others do not have. People who were wealthy could take from the poor through the legal system.
3. Love, in fulfillment of the “king’s law” requires we treat people as we desire to be treated. (2:8-13)
 - c. We transgress God’s law in Christ if we treat certain people like we want to be treated but have disdain for others.
 - d. If we offend God’s law in one point, we have offended all of it. We must be careful to resist picking and choosing we parts of God’s will we like and which we don’t.
 - e. Our behavior should be like we will be judged one day. We should take account of ourselves because God certainly is.