



**Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another**  
**Unit III: Godly Love among Believers**

**Lesson Titles:**  
**Sharing Love in Truth**  
 (Faith Pathway Bible Studies)  
**Sharing Love**  
 (Townsend Press Sunday School  
 Commentary)

## **LESSON 12 • November 22, 2020**

**Fall 2020 Theme: Love for One Another**  
**Unit III: Godly Love among Believers**

**Background Scriptures:** Acts 4:32–5:11

**Print Passages:** Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

### **Key Verse(s):**

The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (Acts 4:32, KJV)

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All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32, NIV)

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What does James say to believers about showing favoritism?
2. Why is showing partiality sin?

### **Lesson Aims:**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Understand the difference between showing partiality and treating others equally.
- Arm that all people are equally valued and loved by God.
- Practice James's call to fulfill the "royal law" of loving one's neighbor as oneself.

### **Lesson Context:**

- James addressed the worldliness that was infiltrating the church. A lack of spiritual maturity had caused many to profess Christ, but to live immoral and unrighteous lives.
- James address issues of showing of partiality, discrimination and **favoritism**.

### **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**

#### **I. The Problem (James 2:1-4)**

- James charges believers to refuse to show partiality or **favoritism**.
- As Christ has received us just as we are, we are to receive others in the same way.

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#### **II. A Study in Contrasts (James 2:5-7)**

- James reminded his readers that they were favoring those who were the **cause** of their current persecution.
  - James points out that showing favoritism was wrong because the rich unbelievers were guilty of blaspheming Christ's name to whom the believers belonged.
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### III. Violating God's Law (James 2:8-13)

- James warned his readers of the danger of selective obedience. We cannot choose the commandments we want to follow or decide how we want to obey them.
  - Just as we are the recipients of God's **mercy**, we should act mercifully toward others without discrimination or prejudice.
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### Lesson Summary:

- Christians must not discriminate either in favor or against anyone.
- Showing no partiality or favoritism at all is **God's** standard for our relationship with others, no matter who they are.

### What do you think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. How can titles get in the way of humbly serving others

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2. How would you rate your local congregation regarding their equal or equitable treatment of people?

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3. What attitudes can cause believers to think that showing favoritism is not sin?

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### As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:

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