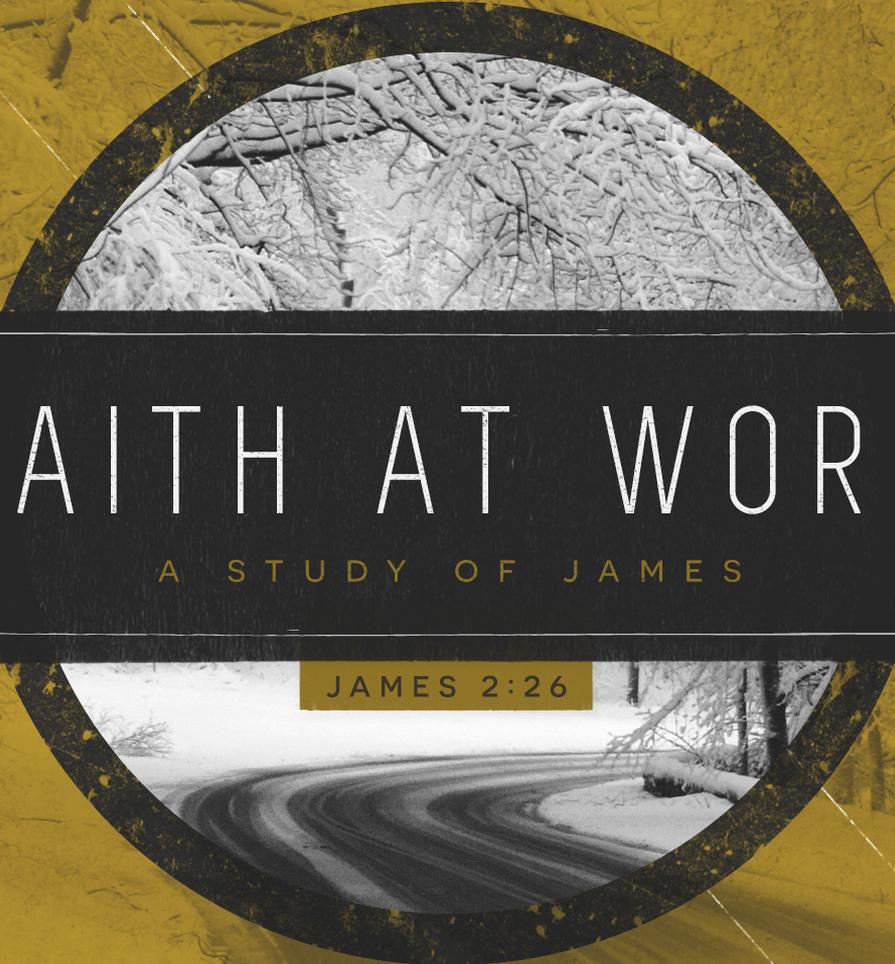


# Agree / Disagree?

1. Cain's killing of Abel was not sin.
2. Sin is sin because God says it is.
3. God only hates sin because of what it does to us.
4. If you are in Christ you cannot sin.



# FAITH AT WORK

A STUDY OF JAMES

JAMES 2:26

# Review

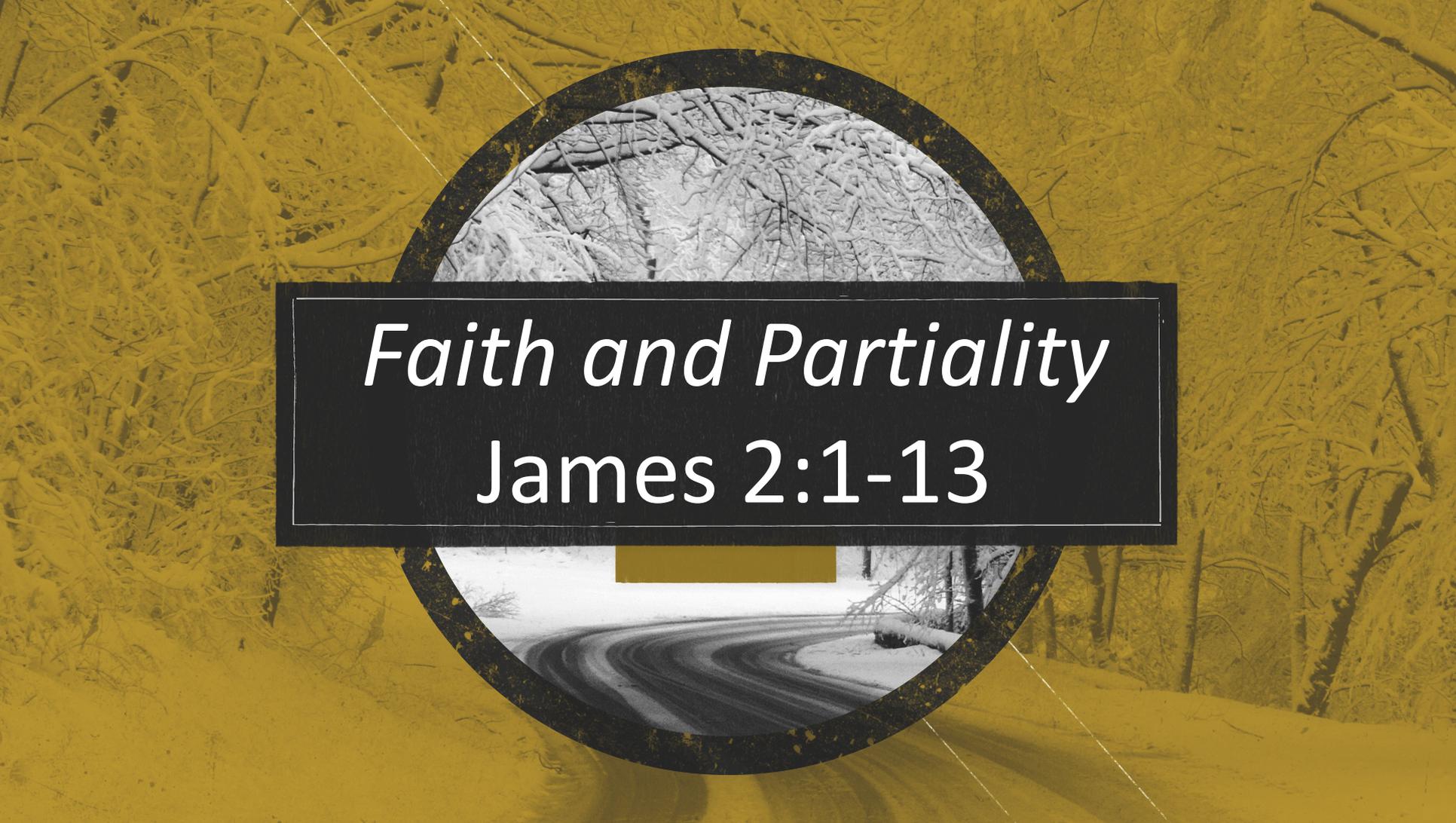
- Our circumstances help to expose who we really are and what we really believe, which affords opportunities for growth

# Review

- Though they may not be pleasant, trials should be received with joy because of what they can accomplish
- Maturity is adopting God's desires and living them out

# Review

- Trials highlight any conflict between our desires and God's
- We fail the tests when we obey our desires instead of God's



*Faith and Partiality*  
James 2:1-13

# James 2:1-13

Test #2: Is there any hint of distinction or favoritism in you or your church?

1. Favoritism is Incompatible with Faith in Christ (1-7)
2. Favoritism is Inconsistent with the Law of God (8-13)

# Incompatible with Faith

- Favoritism – *to lift or receive the face*
  - *To accept the person, not the cause*
  - *To choose based on preferred outward appearances or circumstances*

# What's the problem?

- Making distinctions (4)
  - *To separate or divide*
  - Subjective divisions based on worldly standards (clothes and jewelry)

# What's the problem?

- What kinds of dividing lines do we see today?
- What about us?
- Is all division wrong? (1 Cor. 11:19)

# What's the problem?

- Judges with evil motives (4)
  - Judging the inside by the outside
  - Evil – *wicked, malicious*
  - Look at the heart! (6-7)

# What's the problem?

- Judges with evil motives (4)
  - Wisdom: we're all in the same boat
    - The rich and the poor have a common bond, The Lord is the maker of them all. (Prov. 22:2)

# Incompatible with Faith

- God is impartial
  - Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9
- We are to be like God
  - Lev. 19:15; **1 Sam. 16:7**; Cf. Gal. 2:11-14; 3:28; Col. 3:11

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18)
  - See Matt. 19:16-22; 22:34-40;  
Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37
  - Sums 5 of the 10 Commandments

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18)
  - The royal law – God's will, desires, expectations for man (Rom. 12:1-2)
    - Love is the core (Mark 12:32-34)

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- Be doers of the word! (1:21-22)
  - Fulfill – *carry to its intended goal*
  - According to – *in harmony with*
  - you are doing well – you are living out God's moral will for mankind

# J. W. Roberts

“There is little difference between the morality of the law and the gospel, though there is a difference in application. If one actually was trying to fulfill the concept of love as laid down in the law, he would be doing excellently.”

## G. Campbell Morgan

“My father often used to say, The difference between Law and Grace is this. The Law says, Do this, and live. Grace says, Live and do this. The new life is not intended to set us free from the moral requirements of law. It is to enable us to obey it.”

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- if you show partiality, you are committing sin
  - Sin: *anything that contradicts or opposes the character of God*
  - Comes from our lusts (1:14-15)

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- if you show partiality, you ... are convicted by the law as transgressors
  - Transgress – *to cross a boundary*



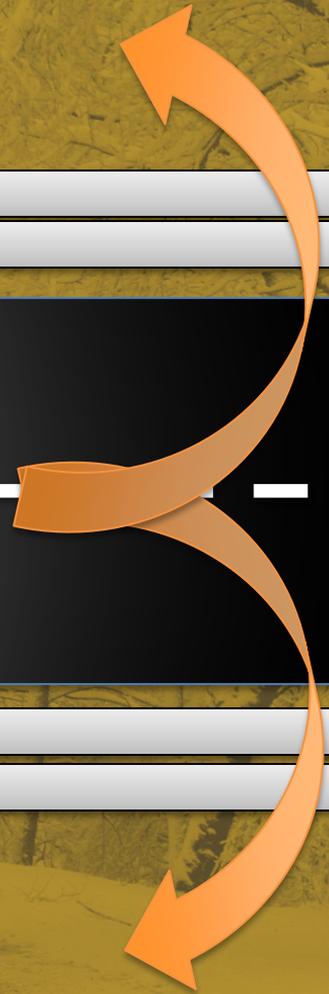
Love God (1-5)

ROYAL

LOVE

LAW

Love People (6-10)



# Inconsistent with God's Law

- if you show partiality, you ... are convicted by the law as transgressors
  - Transgress – *to cross a boundary*
  - Convicted – the law is a witness that brings evidence against us

# Inconsistent with God's Law

- Guilty of all?
  - “Well, I’m pretty good otherwise. What’s one little miss-step?”
  - The royal law stands as a whole because the character of God is a whole (10-11)

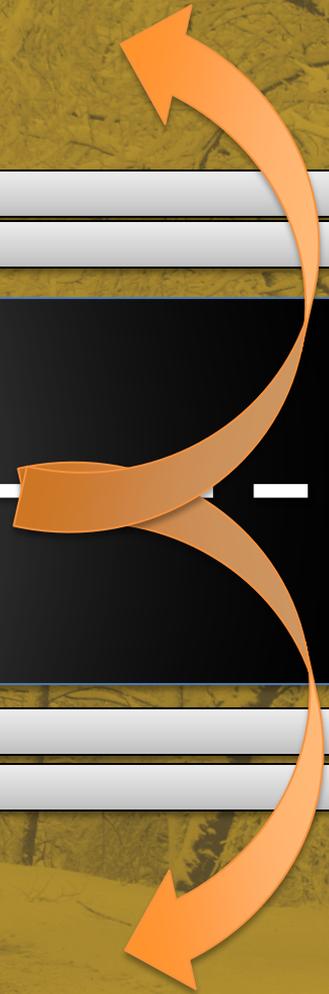
Love God (1-5)

ROYAL

LOVE

LAW

Love People (6-10)



# So What?

- This is a test!
  - Is there any hint of partiality?
  - What does that reveal about your heart / desires? (1:14-15)
  - Will you be a doer? (1:21-22)

# So What?

- So speak and so act
  - Our conduct (driven by our desires) must line up with God's will (i.e. - the royal law of liberty) (12)
  - This is the life of blessing! (1:25)

# So What?

- So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty
  - We will all give an accounting of our lives to God (Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 14)

# So What?

- For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy
  - Distinctions & evil motives (4)
  - Do you understand what God has done for you?! – **Matt 18:23-35**

# So What?

- Mercy triumphs over judgment
  - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy” - Matt 5:7
  - It is the doer who is blessed (1:25)

# Homework

- Review Gen. 15 and Gen. 22
- Read Hebrews 10:32-11:7 (or -12:29)
  - Note: *approval, testimony, testifying, witness, commendation, reputation, etc.*