

**THE SECOND TEST: HOW YOU RESPOND TO OTHERS**

*“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.”*

James 2:1 (NIV)

❖ The Last Words of Jesus...The PRIORITIES He Left for Us

1. The GREAT COMMISSION ...our MISSION

*“Then Jesus came to them and said... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

2. The GREAT COMMANDMENT ...our MANDATE

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

➤ Key Truth: Jesus says our LOVE for OTHERS proves our LOVE for HIM

*“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”*

1 John 4:20 (NIV)

❖ The First Half...The Test of FELLOWSHIP

*“Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here's a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, ‘You stand there’ or ‘Sit on the floor by my feet,’ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”*

James 2:2-4 (NIV)

1. How do you SEE others?

*“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”*

John 7:24 (NIV)

2. How do you TREAT others?

*“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

3. What are your MOTIVES BEHIND how you treat others?

*“One final word of counsel, friends. Keep a sharp eye out for those who take bits and pieces of the teaching that you learned and then use them to make trouble. Give these people a wide berth. They have no intention of living for our Master Christ. They're only in this for what they can get out of it, and aren't above using pious sweet talk to dupe unsuspecting innocents.”*

Romans 16:17-18 (MSG)

➤ Key Truth: Look carefully before you POINT FINGERS at others.

*“Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

❖ **The Second Half... Test of FRIENDSHIP**

*“Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?”*  
James 2:5-7 (NIV)

1. As followers of Christ we must respond to UNRESOLVED ANGER

*“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment...”*

2. As followers of Christ we must not TEAR OTHERS DOWN

*“Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin...”*

3. As followers of Christ we must not treat anyone as WORTHLESS

*“But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”*

Matthew 5:22 (NIV)

❖ **CLOSING TRUTH**

*“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers...Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!”*

James 2:8-13 (NIV)

➤ How you LOOK AT, SPEAK TO, and ACT TOWARD others REVEALS YOU

*“For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.”*  
Galatians 5:14 (MSG)