

How Christians treat people reveals our FAITH /AND our reward in Heaven

James 2

2:1-13

Favoritism

2v2-3
Favoring rich and judging the poor

2v4 - the sin of Discrimination - "Have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil motives."

v5 - Sweeping generalization

2v8 - positive stmt - The Royal Law of Scripture is - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

2v9 - negative stmt- If you show favoritism - you sin - and you have broken the Law

2v10 -The Whole law

2v11 - The Jewish view of the Law

2v12-13 - Judgement day for the Christian

Ch 2v5 page

Ch 2v8 page

Ch 2v9 page

Ch 2v10-11 page

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Christ's Approach

Jesus example:
Prostitutes
Beggars
Blind
Lame
Hated
Samaritans
Hated tax collectors
Lepers
Children

Jesus example:
Love your neighbor as yourself

James 2 2:5

From the Purpose Driven Life Book-

1. Money has the greatest potential to replace God in our lives
2. Wealth is not a sin but failing to use it for God's glory is
3. Jesus talked about Money more than he spoke of heaven or hell

James 2:5
 5 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?

Sweeping Generalization -
 This stmt is a sweeping generalization to make a point on favoritism... (Those who truly "love him" will enter the kingdom - rich or poor..)

Chosen by Grace

The Kingdom

1 Samuel 16:7 -
 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Deuteronomy 7:7-8
 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31
 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."^[d]

God shows impartiality - - - Consider:
 "There will be no poor in Heaven in any sense, no second class citizens. Everyone will be rich in the things that matter eternally. Every believer will receive the same eternal life, the same heavenly citizenship in the Kingdom of God, and the same perfect righteousness of Christ imputed to them by the Father."
 - John MacArthur

Ephesians 2:8-9
 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Conclusion :

1. v3 says, if you make a distinction between rich and poor, you have made yourself a "judge with evil motives."
2. v9 says, this "partiality" is SIN
3. We have been chosen by Grace - - therefore, how can we make distinctions when given such a gift?
4. Look forward, there will be no poor in Heaven!

James 2
2:8

2v8 - The Royal Law of Scripture- "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"
Examples

Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 5:43-45

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[b]" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' 'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

James 2:13 - For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment

Conclusion :

1. v3 says, if you make a distinction between rich and poor, you have made yourself a "judge with evil motives."
2. v9 says, this "partiality" is SIN
3. v13 - says there are eternal consequences as "judgement will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy."

How do I obtain eternal life?

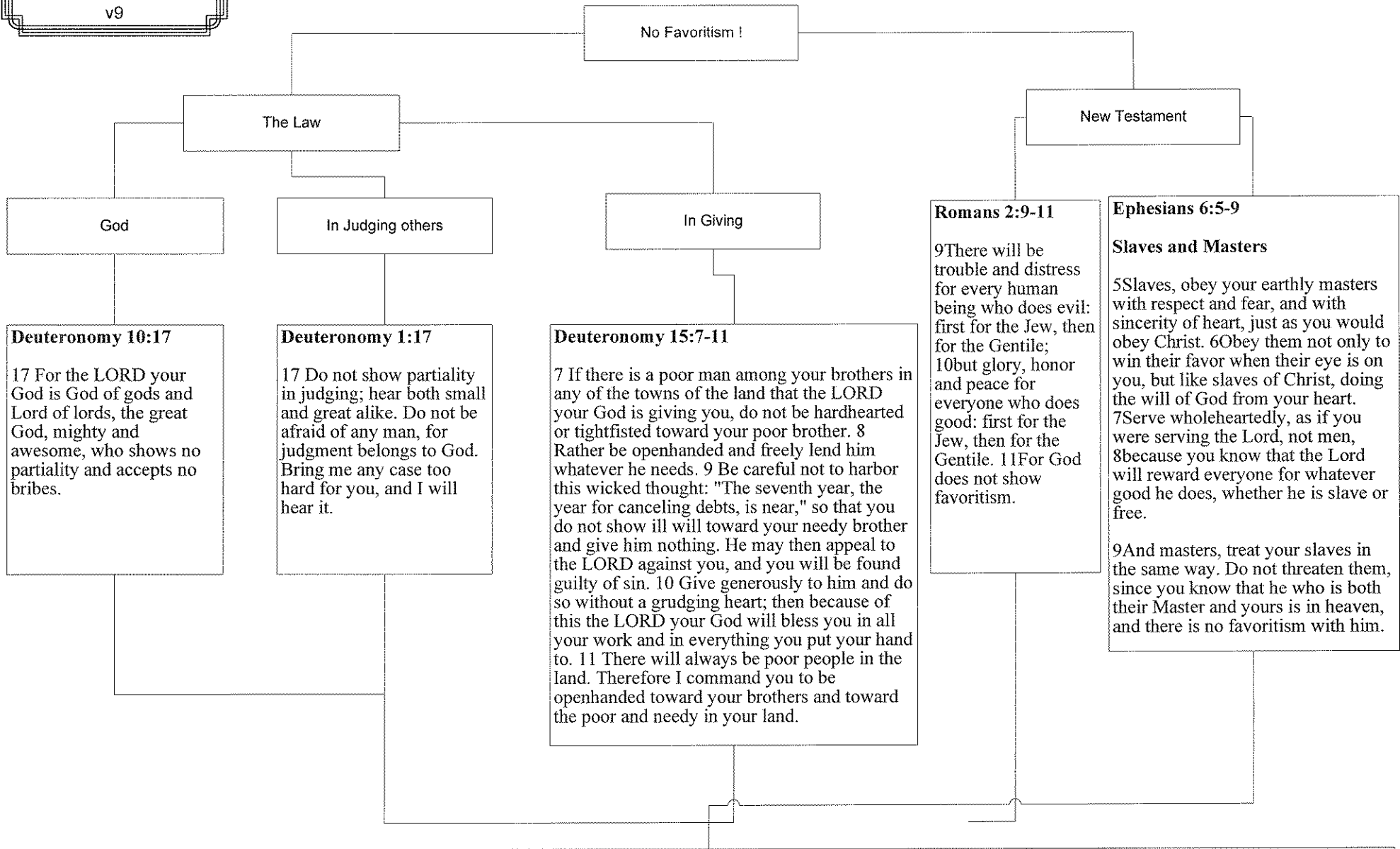
Who is my neighbor?

Jesus says "You have answered correctly, Do this and you will live" - "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same." (Matthew 5:7)

Matt 18:32-35 - "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. (He owed \$11M, he could not repay - - This is being sent to eternal Hell) "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart

James 2
v9



God

Deuteronomy 10:17
17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

The Law

In Judging others

Deuteronomy 1:17
17 Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.

No Favoritism !

In Giving

Deuteronomy 15:7-11
7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. 8 Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. 9 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. 10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. 11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

New Testament

Romans 2:9-11
9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

Ephesians 6:5-9
Slaves and Masters
5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

The only religion to call favoritism a sin is Christianity

James 2
2:10-11

The Law

James 2 v10

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

- 1. The Whole law is 597 commands.
- 2. Even if only 1 part of the law is broken -- and all the rest is kept -- you're still guilty of breaking the law!

James 2 v11

11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

The Jewish view of law

- 1. There are 317 positive commands and 280 negative commands
- 2. So, Jewish thought was just keep the big ones -
- 3. In fact, keep the 2 biggest ones - -
 - a - Murder
 - b - Adultery
 because if convicted of these 2, the sentence was death!
- 4. James is saying, if you break 1 law its as if you've broken them all, because, you're going to jail if you break any part of the law!

Why does James go here?

- 1. Jewish view of the Law was a list of commands, which they focused on keeping only the biggest ones.
- 2. James is saying your focus should be the "Royal Law", not the list of commands (which do not address "loving thy neighbor" and/or mercy)
- 3. Point is - the focus should be on love -- and the Jews fail here !

James 2
2:12-13

2v12-13 - Judgement day for the Christian
12Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

At Death.....

At death - Hebrews 9:27 "... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment"

Comes Judgement...

2 Cor 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

Matthew 16:27
27For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matt 7:2 - For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

Matt 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy

Our Preparation

John 17:3 - "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."
Jesus

1 Cor 3:11-15 - For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire**

James 2
2:14 - 26- A

Faith and Works

Paul

James

Issue - Some claim an inconsistency in the Bible between the Book of James and Paul's writings on faith and works

Romans 3:28:
For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law

The point is:
It's the same GRACE that saves a man (justification) as the GRACE that allows a Christian to show love in relationships (sanctification process).....
This same GRACE that changes the heart in justification, continually renews the heart in sanctification

James 2:24:
You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

James 2:19
Matt 25:40-43
Rev 20:12
Luke 19:6-10
Matt 7:19-20
Luke 10:25-28

Galatians 2:16
Isaiah 64:6
Ephesians 2:8-10
Galatians 3:3-14

Point - Paul is addressing how a man is accepted before our God

Titus 2:11-14
11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Point - James is addressing hypocrisy in the Church - not how a man is saved

James stresses the work of the believer in relation to faith

Paul stresses the work of Christ in relation to faith.

Question addressed- How is a man saved?

Question addressed- How can you tell the difference between a real faith and a false faith?

James is concerned that the outcome of faith be fruit (2:14) so that no one be able to confuse creed with Christianity

Paul is concerned that the object of faith be Christ, unmixed with self-reliance or self-righteousness.

Answer-By faith alone

A renewed heart (real faith) leads to good works
"The true, living faith, which the Holy Spirit instills into the heart, simply cannot be idle."
Martin Luther

The moment that Zaccheus believed in Jesus, he said "Behold Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." Luke 19:8

Answer - Practical Christian love in relationships is the fruit of real faith

In 2vv1-13, one cannot show "Practical Christian love" by discriminating against the poor.

A Renewed Heart leads to good works
Why we do or believe MUST come from the heart (defined as the mind, will, affections, emotions):
"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 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.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40

The Answer:
"We are saved by faith alone, but a saving faith is never alone." - Kauffmann

Hebrews 11:
The "faith hall of fame" never lists a person of faith without adding what he/she DID !!!

One can have works without faith but one cannot have faith without works

Hebrews 11
v7 - By Faith, Noah prepared an ark for the salvation of his household
v8 - By Faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went to a place not knowing where he was going
v17 - By Faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac
v29 - By Faith, Moses passed through the Red Sea as though passing through dry land
v31 - By Faith, Rahab, the harlot, did not perish after she welcomed the spies in peace
v35 - Other were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they may obtain a better resurrection.
v36+ - Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

James 2

2:14 - 26
6/04

Faith and Works

Examples

"Faith" w/out works

Works without faith

Which is impossible....

Example of "faith" without Practical Love

Example of "right thinking" without Practical Love

Example of a Gentile

Faith with works

Example of a Jew

A Tree and Its Fruit - Matthew 7:15-23

15"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

V 15 - 17
Person
A "make believe" person
Focus
A "manward" focus - man to man (horizontal)
Subject
"all creed and no deed".
Words of compassion, without corresponding acts of compassion are phony. While people today don't say "Go in peace", they do say "God Bless you" with no real personal concern for the person.
Conclusion-2v17 -
"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
1 John 3:17-18 -
17If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

V 18
v17 - if faith w/ out works is no faith -- then one cannot "show me your faith w/ out works in v18

V 19 - 20
Person
Demons
Focus
A "Godward" focus - man to God (vertical)
Subject
Like the person who says "I have a deep, private faith" - - - but even the demons have that - - and they shudder - - there's no personal sacrifice
Conclusion-2v19 -
"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. AND - the demons are going to hell !!!!!

Where there is no "Practical Love" there is no real faith !

Practical Love - at Pentecost
Acts 2:45
45Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.
Acts 4:32-35
32All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. 33With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. 34There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

V 25-26
Person
Rahab
Focus
A "manward" focus - man to man (horizontal)
Subject
"takes a personal risk". When she had an opportunity to demonstrate her trust in the Lord, she placed her life on the line.
Conclusion-2v26 -
"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."
Rahab's story - Joshua 2:1-21
Stmt of Faith - Joshua 2:9-11
Faith Request - Joshua 2:12-13

V 21-24
Person
Abraham
Focus
A "God-ward" focus - God to man (vertical)
Genesis 22
Subject
v21 - It says Abraham was "justified by works", meaning he was justified before men. Evidence of this was the offering of Isaac. This event vindicated Abraham's faith before men - because they could now prove it was a real faith. Abraham was justified (declared righteous before God) many years before the offering of Isaac. (Gen 12:1-7; Gen 15:6)
- The result of the relationship is not "shuddering", but is a "friend of God"
Conclusion-2v22 and 24 -
"You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected. v24-You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. "

Practical Love - to Believers -
Matthew 25:31-41,45 - 40"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Practical Love - to Strangers - Luke 10:30-35
30In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'