



IMAGO DEI

The Dignity of Every Person

For the week of November 2, 2025.

Life

When you think of the word “dignity,” what images or experiences come to mind? Who is someone in your life who exemplifies dignity?

James warns against favoritism (treating people differently based on status, appearance, or wealth). Do you see that kind of favoritism show up in our world today? What about in the church?

Have you ever been treated in a way that made you feel de-valued? How did that experience shape how you see others now?

Theology

Read James 2:1–12 again. Why do you think James connects favoritism with sin? What does that reveal about the character of God?

“If sanctity is the valuation of created life, then dignity is what comes out of that! Dignity is the composure of the sanctified life.”

- How does dignity flow out of sanctity?
- How do these two ideas (sanctity and dignity) reflect the heart of the gospel?

James calls “favoritism” sin and ties it to the “royal law” to love your neighbor. In what sense is partiality not just an ethical lapse but a theological denial of the gospel? How does showing favoritism contradict justification by grace and the unity of the body of Christ?

James frames mercy as triumphing over judgment. How does divine mercy re-narrate “justice” in the church? Where’s the line between maintaining holy standards and embodying cruciform mercy toward the weak, poor, or morally failed?

In Practice

“The law of God is for our neighbors.” How does that reshape your understanding of holiness or obedience? What does it look like to express holiness through relationships instead of apart from them?

What is one concrete step you can take this week to dignify someone around you through presence, kindness, listening, or advocacy?



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LIFE GROUP NOTES