

# James 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

## Analysis

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**If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,** James illustrates with a brother or sister lacking clothing (gymnoi, γυμνοί) and daily food (leipomenoi trophēs, λειπόμενοι τροφῆς). Faith encounters tangible needs, not theoretical scenarios. The familial terms emphasize church responsibility toward one another.

The scenario exposes hypocrisy: ignoring fellow believers' needs reveals faithlessness. Reformed ecclesiology highlights covenant community; neglecting family obligations contradicts gospel love.

## Historical Context

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Persecution and famine created many destitute saints (Acts 11). James oversaw relief distributions and knew of believers lacking basics. His illustration wasn't hypothetical. Paul's collection for Jerusalem mirrors this priority.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Who in your church family currently struggles with basic needs?
2. How can you restructure budget or time to meet tangible needs?
3. What systems can your church implement for swift benevolence?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐὰν	δὲ	ἀδελφός	ἢ	ἀδελφή	γυμνοὶ	ὑπάρχουσιν	καὶ
<b>If</b>	G1161	<b>a brother</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>sister</b>	<b>naked</b>	<b>be</b>	<b>and</b>
G1437		G80	G2228	G79	G1131	G5225	G2532
λειπόμενοι	ᾗσιν	τῆς	ἐφημέρου	τροφῆς			
<b>destitute</b>	G5600	G3588	<b>of daily</b>	<b>food</b>			
G3007			G2184	G5160			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 3:11** (Parallel theme): He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

**Isaiah 58:7** (Parallel theme): Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

**Isaiah 58:10** (Parallel theme): And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

**James 2:5** (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?