

The Letter of James: Partiality

James 2:1-13

A Picture of Partiality (v.1-4)

“Partiality means that you base your treatment of someone—or your attitude toward someone—on something that should not be the basis of how you treat them.” – John Piper

The Problem of Partiality (v.5-7)

- Partiality is antithetical to the gospel way.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 – [6] For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. [7] It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, [8] but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 – [26] For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, [29] so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Romans 2:11 – For God shows no partiality.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 – [14] For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; [15] and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. [16] *From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.* Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

- Partiality further marginalizes the marginalized.

- Partiality backfires.

- Application Questions:

-What does this look like in our hearts?

-What does this look like in our midst?

-What does this look like outside of our midst?

“God, the New Testament suggests, delights especially to shower His grace on those whom the world has discarded and on those who are most keenly aware of their own inadequacy. James calls on the church to embody a similar ethic of special concern for the poor and helpless.” -Doug Moo

The Place of Partiality in Relation to...

...the “Royal Law” (v.8-9)

...the “Whole Law” (v.10-11)

...the “Law of Liberty” (v.12-13a)

Ezekiel 36:26-27 – [26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

The Posture of Partiality (13b)