



The Sin of Partiality in Christ's Church

James 2:1–13

- 1) The glorious Lord Jesus is both judgmental & merciful
 - a) Christ's royal law is love (Matt 22:34-40; cf. Lev 19:18; Deut 6:4)
 - b) Christ's true followers must reflect His glory
 - c) God judges the heart of man, not his exterior (cf. 1 Sam 16:7)
 - d) God chooses those whom He will (Mark 13:20; Eph 1:4)
 - e) God makes the poor rich in faith (Matt 5:3; Luke 6:20; 1 Cor 1:27-28)
 - f) God shares His kingdom w/ those who love Him
 - g) God convicts sinners w/ His royal Law
 - h) God is merciless to those w/o mercy (Matt 25:31-46)
- 2) Faith in Christ and partiality w/ people are incompatible (2:1-4)
 - a) Showing partiality in the Church weakens it
 - b) Race, sex, social status, etc. are irrelevant in the church (Gal 3:28)
 - c) Our behavior towards people indicates what we really think about God
- 3) Prejudice and partiality are unsuitable for Christians (5-11)
 - a) Theologically: God shows no partiality (5; cf. 1 Cor. 26-29)
 - b) Logically: why favor those who belittle us? (6-7)
 - c) Biblically: the Law is love—love for God and His people (8-11; cf. Matt. 22:37-40)
- 4) Mercy is the Christian's message of hope (12-13)
 - a) Our *words* reveal what we think (12; cf. Matt. 12:36)
 - b) Our *deeds* reveal who & what we love (12; cf. Eph. 2:8-10)
 - c) Our *attitudes* reveal whether we'll receive mercy from God