

James 1	James 2-5
<p>²²<i>But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves...</i></p> <p>²⁶<i>If anyone thinks himself to be religious (mere doers), and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.</i></p> <p>²⁷<i>Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress (love people), and to keep oneself unstained by the world (love God).</i></p>	<p>The Word of God in _____ in the life of a genuine "doer"</p>

HOW TO VIEW PEOPLE
James 2:1-13

Exhortation against partiality	<div> <div></div> <div>¹<i>My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.</i></div> </div>
Example of partiality	<div> <div></div> <div>²<i>For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?</i></div> </div>
Explanations against partiality	<div> <div></div> <div>⁵<i>Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? ⁸If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. ¹¹For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.</i></div> </div>

Main point: As followers of Jesus Christ, we must never tolerate the sin of partiality in any of its ungodly forms.

EXHORTATION (against partiality)

v. 1 - *My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism* (prosōpolēmpsia)

- _____ = showing special favor to someone based on external factors
 - _____ = showing unfair disfavor to someone based on external factors
- } appearance
personality
age
ethnicity
social rank
wealth
skills
intelligence
etc.

Worldly standards that God never intended to be standards by which we view people

physical harm ↔ hateful speech ↔ snubbing ↔ disappointment ↔ gravitating ↔ setting up
to those court in
most like us our mind

God never shows partiality (Deu. 10:17-18; Mat. 22:16; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; 1 Pet. 1:17) and neither should we (Deu. 1:17, 16:9; 1 Tim. 5:21)

EXAMPLE (of partiality)

vv. 2-3 - *For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"*

- Showing favor to the rich man, based on how he appeared was sinful (favoritism)
- Showing contempt for the poor man, based on how he appeared was sinful (prejudice)

v. 4 - *have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?*

Main Point:

Stop holding on to your faith in Christ in one hand, and holding on to partiality in the other. Favoritism and prejudice are incompatible with Christianity. Instead, we are to view people as God views them.

Why is this so important?

EXPLANATIONS (against partiality)

① It is inconsistent in view of God's sovereign _____

v. 5-6a - *Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man.*

① God has a different _____ for wealth: His _____ of rich faith (salvation) to those who love Him

- ...*did not God choose the poor of this world*
 - Poverty in this world is only temporary, therefore, it is a _____ way to evaluate someone
 - *to be rich in faith* = a present reality
 - *and heirs of the kingdom* = a future reality
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*
 - Earthly wealth is not true life or true riches
- Revelation 3:17-18 - *Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*
 - If we think that worldly wealth makes us rich, we are blind to spiritual realities
- When we view people, there's more than one kind of wealth that we need to consider
 - Do we view people by their temporal wealth of this world?
 - Do we view people by their eternal spiritual wealth?
- Clarification: God choosing the poor of this world does not mean...
 - there is some _____ in poverty
 - God has chosen _____ poor person
 - God has not chosen _____ wealthy
- In general, God has chosen the _____ people of the is world to be His
But why?

② God is _____ something about Himself: His _____

- He is sovereign over who is wealthy and who is poor, so He is unimpressed with how much or how little someone has
 - Deuteronomy 8:18 - *But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you the power to make wealth.*
 - Job 34:19 - *[God] shows no partiality to princes nor regards the rich above the poor, for they are all the work of His hands.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has **chosen**, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”*
- We should not show unfair disfavor toward those whom God get the glory for saving

③ God is not partial in whom He chooses to be His: His _____

- He did not save us based on anything He saw in us:
Our salvation is simply explained by grace
- He doesn't pay special attention to _____ boundaries:
He saves Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 2:10, 3:23, 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11)
- He doesn't pay special attention to _____ boundaries:
He saves out of all classes of society (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11)
- He doesn't pay special attention to _____ boundaries:
He saves both the rich and the poor (1 Tim. 6:17-18; Jam. 1:10, 2:5)

MAIN POINT: If God is not partial in bestowing His grace based on these external factors, how can we _____ partiality toward other believers?

v. 6a - *But you have dishonored the poor man.*

- We dishonor other believers (and ultimately God) when we judge them based on external, superficial factors.

② It is inappropriate in view of men's sinful _____

vv. 6b-7 - *Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?*

- Why is that inappropriate?
 - It makes no sense—it is _____ (logically)
 - It is sin—because it is _____ (morally)
- It is not true that:
 - God doesn't save anyone who is wealthy
 - all the rich are oppressive
- But historically, most often Christians have been persecuted by the _____ classes in society
 - In the OT, God forbid his people—especially the rich and powerful—from:
 - Charging high interest rates on the poor
 - Imposing heavy rent on the poor
 - Using the judicial system for personal gain
 - Accepting bribes
- James is not being prejudice himself or advocating reverse discrimination, he is arguing against favoritism of any kind.
 - He is not saying: Don't love them or don't witness to them
 - He is saying: Don't play up to them or show special favor to them

Summary:

- Partiality is inconsistent in view of God's sovereign choice
- Partiality is inappropriate in view of men's sinful cruelty
 - When we go against the poor, we go against the ones God has chosen
 - When we side with the rich, we side with the oppressors and blasphemers
- When we are partial, we are being inconsistent in our Christianity.
 - The way we view people has been reversed from the way God views people.
That will ultimately express itself in how we treat people inappropriately (sinfully)

v. 1 - *My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ*

- How did Jesus come into the world?
- Who was His father?
- Where did He grow up?
- His life:
 - *The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head* (Luke 9:58)
- His ministry:
 - *Go and report to John what you hear and see: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.* (Matthew 11:4-5)
- His disciples:
 - *[The rulers and elders of the people] observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.* (Acts 4:13)
- His education:
 - *But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach. The Jews then were astonished, saying, "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?"* (John 7:14-15)
- His appearance:
 - *Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* (Isaiah 53:1-3)
- Jesus was a glorious God (Jam. 2:1) in an _____ appearance (Isa. 53:1-3)

The Point: When we evaluate other believers by their appearance and judge them for not measuring up to our superficial standards, we stand in the _____ of those who crucified the One we call our Savior. How are we any different when we use worldly standards to judge other believers whom He has chosen? Therefore...

Stop holding on to your faith in Christ in one hand, and holding on to partiality in the other.

Instead, we are to view people as God views them.

Christ, during His earthly ministry, treated all who came to Him the same whether it was a wealthy Jewish leader (like Nicodemus) or whether it was a common beggar (like Bartimaeus).