

Psalms 122:1 (ESV) I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

James 2:1–7 (ESV) *My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

NOTE: You can listen to the worship set each week from our app!

1. Your mind will think most of whatever you expose it to the most.

2. You will more easily obey the Scriptures if you know the songs.

Colossians 3:16 (ESV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

I'm not speaking the jargon of politics but words of the Kingdom.

VS 1 *My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.*

Partiality - Discrimination, prejudices, favoritism, inequality

The command not to discriminate in v. 1 is therefore the main point of the section. In vv. 2–4, a specific example - a case study - of such discrimination is offered and the conclusion of that action is evil.

VS 2-4 *For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

"judges with evil thoughts" - is actually a term that describes judges that take bribes.

"When you show partiality, when you show favoritism, when you discriminate, you dishonor God because you step out from under his saving grace, and you become your own mini-god, judging others with evil intentions. You were not saved because of your awesomeness. So the demand that someone meet your criteria of awesomeness is anti-gospel. It's outside of how

God saves. It's outside of how God works. It's outside of the mercy you've been shown." Matt Chandler.

VS 5 *Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?*

The poor Christian must depend more upon God for their daily needs than the rich -

The good news is that there is an inheritance awaiting the poor that far outweigh the struggles of poverty in this world.

VS 6 *But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?*

When you show favoritism and partiality, you are acting like unsaved rich people who on a scale from 1-10 their dependence on God is at zero.

Jesus teaches opposite of that in Matthew 7 when he talks about how we're to engage our enemies. We're to love our enemies, be patient with our enemies, be gracious towards our enemies.

Would you invite the person not like you to your house for dinner?

Our homes have become our personal retreat centers where no one can come disturb us except those who are like us. We are partial.

Don't let your preferences become your prejudices.

Now, to be clear, though we are equal in value and worth, we are not the same.

We are equally created in the image of God

We are equally depraved - none is good, no not one.

We are equally saved - the thief and Paul

We are equally loved - Think of the dinner table with a dad and his children.

VS 7 *Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

The opposite of discrimination, racism, and partiality is **HONOR**

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

Our new identity is one of **HONOR** not partiality.

(Proverbs 29:23 ESV) One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor. (and you can't give what you do not have).

Who do we HONOR? Rom 13:7 "Give honor to whom honor is due

1. Honor God

He alone is worth of our highest honor.

(1Sam 2:30 ESV) Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

2. Honor your father and mother

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. (Exodus 20:12 ESV)

(Eph 6:1-3 ESV) *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), [3] "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."*

3. Honor marriage

(Hebrews 13:4 ESV) Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

(1Pet 3:7) Honor wives

4. Honor widows

(1 Timothy 5:3 ESV) Honor widows who are truly widows.

5. Honor pastors

(1 Timothy 5:17 ESV) Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

Though I am a pastor, and this is somewhat awkward coming from a pastor, it doesn't make it any less true.

I'm telling you this for you - not for me. I want it to go well with you.

Don't show favoritism to the pastor in order to get notoriety or a prominent place of leadership in the church either.

6. Honor others

(1 Peter 2:17 ESV) Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

We must value people despite their faults.

(Romans 12:10 ESV) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Instead of outdoing one another to get honor - The Bible says outdo one another in giving honor.

(John 12:26 ESV) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.