

## *Women's Bible Study*

March 21, 2018

James 2: 1-13

### Favoritism Forbidden

James was best known for his concern that faith in Christ be expressed in action; his advice to help his readers live for Christ; and his concern for persecuted Christians. James was one of the select individuals that Christ appeared to after his resurrection. He was martyred in A.D. 62.”

**James 2: 1** My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

**Q - When we think of the attributes of God, what comes to mind? There is another attribute of God that we don't very often talk about yet is frequently spoken of in Scripture and that is God's impartiality. God does not show favoritism, nor should believers.**

**Colossians 2: 8** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

**Deuteronomy 1:17** Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgement belongs to God.

**Leviticus 19:15** Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. (**pervert means to turn aside or away from what is good or true or morally right**)

**Proverbs 24:23** These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good:

**Acts 10:34** Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.

**James 2: 2** Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

“The Greek term synagogue or meeting is used to designate the meeting place of the church.” (NIV Study Notes)

**James 2: 3,4** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Here’s a good seat for you,’ but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” (4) have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**John 7:24** “Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”

**Q – Can you see ways in which you struggle with the sin of partiality in our church?**

**James 2: 5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

**James 1:16-17** Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**1Corinthians 1: 26-28** Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-and the things that are not-to nullify the things that are, (Salvation does not depend on anything in man).

**Revelation 2: 9** I know your afflictions and your poverty-yet you are rich!

**James 2: 6,7** But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? (7)Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

**1Corinthians 11:22** Don't you have homes to drink and eat in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

**James 2: 8** If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

**Leviticus 19: 18** Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

**Q – What is meant by the royal law according to Scripture?**

**A-** The law of love (Lev. 19:18) is called "royal" because it is the supreme law that is the source of all other laws governing human relationships. It the summation of all such laws. Mat 22: 36-38 - "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**James 2: 9** But, if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

**Deuteronomy 1: 17** Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God.

**James 2: 10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. (The law is the expression of the character and will of God; therefore to violate one part of the law is to violate God's will and thus his whole law.)

**Matthew 5: 18-19** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (19) Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**James 2:11** For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

**Deuteronomy 5: 17-18** “You shall not murder.” “You shall not commit adultery.” (Commandments 6 and 7 respectfully)

**James 2: 12-13** Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, (13) because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

**Proverbs 21:13** If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**Matthew 6: 14-15** For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Q – Why does mercy triumph over judgment?**

“Scripture speaks of God's characteristic of impartiality many, many times. But just from the New Testament alone, Peter for example in Acts chapter 10 in presenting the gospel to a Gentile was acknowledging that God is impartial with reference to the universality of saving grace to any race. And in Acts 10:35 it says, “But in every nation he that fears Him and works righteousness is accepted with Him because God is no respecter of persons.” “In other words, because God has no partiality, anyone in any nation who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. Social status, educational ability, looks, wardrobe, financial bank account, all of that is insignificant and non-consequential.” John MacArthur

A man will be judged purely on the condition of his soul. Look at your heart.

**Pray that instead of seeing how others are different, we would see evidence of grace in others' lives.**