

James Ch 2:1-13

Showing Partiality

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CONTENTS

1. Treat all people the same no matter their social status (Ja 2:1-4).
2. God loves the poor (v.5).
3. Other reasons not to exalt the rich above the poor (v.6-7).
4. The royal law (v.8).
5. Offending in one point (v.9-11).
6. Judgment without mercy (v.12-13).

The Attributes of God

His divine nature

His holiness

His righteousness

His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence

His changelessness

His everlastingness

His sovereignty

His justice

His perfect grace, love, mercy, faithfulness, and goodness

His impartiality

Jesus displayed impartiality

Jesus worked on breaking down walls that divided humanity, and on establishing one new body of mankind in Him.

Eph. 2:14-16

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and **broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,**

15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

16 and might reconcile them both in **one body to God** through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

James 2:1(NASB)

1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

James 2: 1(NIV)

1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

James 2:1 (CEV)

2 My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others.

James 2:1 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with partiality.

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

1. Everyone who is in the church is a brother or sister.

a. Everyone stands on an equal footing before the Lord Jesus Christ.

i. Wealth, status, social standing, position, appearance do not matter. All men should and are able to come to the Lord Jesus Christ to worship Him.

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

2. Everyone who has faith in our Lord Jesus Christ bows before Him as Lord.

3. Christians who truly believe in the Lord will not show partiality.

4. Christians cannot be followers of Jesus Christ, who is the very presence and glory of God, and be partial.

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

Jesus did not show partiality.

Matt. 22:15-16

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said.

16 And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; **for You are not partial to any.**”

1. What does James share with Christians concerning partiality?

Rom. 12:5

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Gal. 3:28

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. Explain the illustration found in James 2:2-4.

James 2:2-4

2 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,

3 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,"

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

2. Explain the illustration found in James 2:2-4.

Everyone should be welcome in the house of the Lord and **treated** with **dignity** and **respect** as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

Pro. 22:2

2 The rich and the poor have a common bond, **The Lord is the maker of them all.**

Eph. 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**;

3. What lessons can Christians learn from this illustration?

James 2:4-7

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

5 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?**

6 But **you have dishonored the poor man.** Is it not **the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?**

7 Do **they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?**

3. What lessons can Christians learn from this illustration?

1. Showing partiality sets one up as the judge of men (v. 4).

2. Showing partiality reveals evil thoughts (v. 4).

3. Showing partiality discriminates against the poor and lowly, a people who are loved by God (v. 5).

3. What lessons can Christians learn from this illustration?

4. Showing partiality shows an unworthy attitude (v. 6a).

a. It dishonors, humiliates, shames, disgraces, and insults the poor and lowly person.

3. What lessons can Christians learn from this illustration?

5. Showing partiality shows foolish behavior (v. 6b–7).

a. The rich and high usually oppress the poor and they readily grab what they can, using the very laws of the land to do it. They use the law unjustly in order to protect and increase their wealth and power.

b. The rich and high usually blaspheme the name of Christ. They blaspheme His name by denying, mocking, ridiculing, persecuting, neglecting, ignoring, and rejecting Him as the Savior of the world.

4. How should Christians apply the “royal law according to scripture”?

James 2:8

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

4. How should Christians apply the “royal law according to scripture”?

1. It is the law of the kingdom of Christ;
2. It involves man’s entire duty to others;
3. It is a law which originates with the King of the universe;
4. It stands at the head of all other laws.
It’s man’s obligation to show respect to all men.

4. How should Christians apply the “royal law according to scripture”?

5. It surpasses all other obligations and leads to the fulfillment of all others.

Gal. 6:2

**2 Bear one another's burdens, and
thereby fulfill the law of Christ.**

4. How should Christians apply the “royal law according to scripture”?

6. It is the very commandment that leads to eternal life.

1 John 3:23

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

5. Where can we find the “royal law” in the OT?

Lev. 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord

6. What happens to Christians who show partiality?

James 2:9-11

9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

11 For 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. 22

6. What happens to Christians who show partiality?

James said that if we haven't kept the law in its entirety, we are guilty of breaking all of it.

Isa. 59:2

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

7. What does James say that enables Christians to love and care for all people (v. 12-13)?

James 2:12-13

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty.

13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; **mercy triumphs over judgment.**

7. What does James say that enables Christians to love and care for all people (v. 12-13)?

1. We shall face the judgment of God (v. 12).

a. We should *speak and act* like people who will stand before God and give account for what we have done.

7. What does James say that enables Christians to love and care for all people (v. 12-13)?

2. We shall receive a reciprocal reward for our behavior (v.13).

a. God is going to treat us exactly as we have treated others.

b. If we have shown mercy, then He will show mercy to us; if we have not shown mercy, then He will not show mercy to us.

7. What does James say that enables Christians to love and care for all people (v. 12-13)?

Matt. 6:14-15

14 “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

8. If a non-Christian was to look at your actions and the way you spend your time, money and talents, what would they conclude about your values?

A. The way I conduct myself in the world should reflect my Christian walk of life.

B. I should be Christ-like with all that God has entrusted to me.