

SHOWING PARTIALITY AND FAVORITISM

James 2:1-13

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt everyone encounters many temptations and difficulties (trials) but there seems to be something that happens the most and that is showing partiality or favoritism to certain ones and in reality it is discriminating against others.

I. PARTIALITY - FAVORITISM IS REALLY SHOWING SPECIAL ATTENTION

1. James 2:1 (Of all the people on earth, the very people who should NOT show partiality are believers.)
2. Everyone who is a believer in Jesus is a brother or sister and is on equal footing before the Lord Jesus.
3. Everyone who is a believer in Jesus bows before Him as Lord, no one being higher or lower.
4. Leviticus 19:15; Job 13:10; 1 Timothy 5:21; James 2:4; Proverbs 24:23

II. AN EXAMPLE OF PARTIALITY - FAVORITISM

1. James 2:2-3
2. Two visitors attend a worship service: one is dressed very well and the other dressed very poorly.
What usually happens in the average Church?
3. There are to be absolutely NO distinctions within the Church whatsoever.
4. How often has a poor-rich person visited OUR services? How did WE react?

III. FIVE THINGS WRONG WITH SHOWING PARTIALITY - FAVORITISM

1. James 2:4-7
2. It sets one up as the judge of others.
- Matthew 7:1; Romans 14:4, 13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; James 4:12
3. It reveals thoughts focused upon changeable things, and neglecting the real person.
- Believers are never to show partiality, not to a single soul.
- What is important is that person's life, health, soul, body and spirit.
4. It discriminates against the poor and lowly, who are also loved EQUALLY by God.
- Psalm 12:5; 14:6; 140:12
5. It shows a disgraceful attitude, dishonoring, humiliating, insulting the poor person.
- Matthew 5:3; 11:5; Luke 4:18; Proverbs 14:20; 19:7
6. It shows foolish behavior.
- It is usually the rich that oppress the poor.
- It is usually the rich that have little use for God.

7. Why would the church and its believers show partiality to the poor of the earth anyhow?
 - Deuteronomy 15:7; Psalm 11:4; 41:1; 109:31; Proverbs 19:17

IV. WARNINGS AGAINST BEING PARTIAL

1. James 2:8-11
2. Showing partiality is sin! It violates the great "royal law" of love.
 - Matthew 22:39
 - It includes all other laws - Mark 12:31; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14
 - It is the very commandment that leads to eternal life - Luke 10:27-28; 1 John 3:23; 4:7-12, 16
3. Showing partiality makes a person guilty of breaking the WHOLE law of God.
 - Either one obeys God or does not.
 - To break one law makes one guilty of breaking God's law.
 - One does not pick and choose which laws to keep or not keep.
 - One does not build up a merit system thus allowing him/her to break one or two.
 - One is not more righteous by keeping more of God's laws than others do.
4. Showing partiality is just as serious as breaking any of God's other laws.
 - It selects one person over another - it ignores one person over another.
 - Believers are not to show partiality or favoritism to anyone.
 - Romans 12:9; 13:10; 15:1-2; Galatians 5:14

V. MOTIVATIONS AGAINST SHOWING PARTIALITY - FAVORITISM

1. James 2:12-13
2. Every believer will also face the judgment seat of God.
 - Believers should act like people who will stand before God one day.
 - Believers are to receive people, no matter who they are.
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Deuteronomy 11:28; 1 Samuel 12:15; Ephesians 5:6
3. Every believer will be treated by God at judgment exactly as they have treated others.
 - Matthew 5:7; 6:14-15; 7:1-2; 18:35

CONCLUSION:

1. Every believer faces the temptation of favoritism and being partial, every day.
2. God makes it very clear that His Children are not to be guilty of this sin.