

July 5, 2020

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

James 2:1-13

“Stop the Sin of Partiality – Part 2”

- I. Prescript (1:1)
- II. Be Joyful in Trials (1:2–15)
- III. Stop Being Misled (1:16-18)
- IV. Respond Properly to the Word of God (1:19-27)
- V. **Stop the Sin of Partiality (2:1-13)**

A. Reproof (1-4)

- 1. Exhortation (1)**
- 2. Illustration (2-3)**
- 3. Application (4)**

B. Reasons (5-13)

- 1. Contrary to God’s Kingdom (5)**

- 2. Contrary to Present Reality (6-7)**

- 3. Contrary to God’s Law (8-11)**

- 4. Contrary to Genuine Faith: Salvation & Coming Judgment (12-13)**

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Have you become more sensitive to the practice of personal favoritism (partiality) this past week? Without giving names, what are some examples of the sin of partiality that you observed in yourself or in others? Why do you think the people who were being partial believed it was okay?
2. On what basis are we united (one) in Christ? Does it have anything to do with our externals, accomplishments, abilities / skills, educational background, gender, ethnicity...? (See Romans 3; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2; Col. 3:11) If our unity is based on Christ and His merits, why do you think people allow external, non-essential things to divide them? What are some ways we can stop this from happening in our church?
3. Who will be in the kingdom of heaven? Why will they be there? Why are we prone to reject (or at least not treat equally) people that God chose to be in His kingdom? What does that say about our value system? Why do so many people desire to be around rich and famous people? (Like Max Detweiler, friend of Captain Von Trapp in the Sound of Music: *"I like rich people. I like the way they live. I like the way I live when I'm with them."*) What does 1 John 2:15-17 say about this? Now read Hebrews 11:24-26 about Moses and the decision he made. What can we learn from Moses' example? How would thinking that way help us avoid the sin of partiality?
4. James points out their personal negative experiences with rich people in 2:6-7 as a reason why they shouldn't be partial toward them. Why would someone choose to be partial toward people who have historically taken advantage of or injured them personally? What possible motivation could a believer have for being partial toward someone who was militantly anti-Christian?
5. What does James mean by "royal law" in v. 8? In what sense is loving your neighbor as yourself a royal law? How does showing partiality violate that law? What point is James making when he discusses keeping the whole law but violating one part of it? How does this motivate them to be diligent in the area of partiality?
6. What is the law of liberty in v. 12? A lot of people believe that laws are restrictive. In what sense can a "law" be liberating? What does mercy have to do with the law of liberty? If one understands the law of liberty, how should this impact the way they speak and act? How specifically should this impact the temptation to be partial?
7. Why does James bring up "judgment" in v. 13? What is the connection to showing personal favoritism (being partial)? What are they supposed to learn from experiencing God's mercy in their own lives? How should this impact unity in the church?
8. Pray that the LORD would purge our church of the sin of partiality. Ask Him to help everyone to keep their eyes on things above where Christ is seated and live for His coming kingdom. Ask Him to empower us to love our neighbors as ourselves, be merciful, and preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
9. If you haven't already done so, **memorize James 2:5-13** and quote it in the morning, at noon, and at night every day this week. Don't forget to review the first chapter too. Ask the LORD to expand your understanding of His mercy in your life and how you can demonstrate mercy toward everyone you meet.

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

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? ⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. 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. 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.

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