

Loving Like Jesus: The Evil of Partiality and the Glory of Unity

James 2:1-9

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James 2:1 - Partiality contains both favoritism and discrimination. They are two sides to the same coin.

2:2-4 - Example of partiality within the New Testament Church

2:5-9 - Three Reasons Why Partiality is Evil

1. Partiality is Contrary to God's Nature :: 2:5-6a

Luke 4:18 - At the heart of Jesus' ministry we find love to the poor and outcasts!

God takes the poor and makes them rich in faith

James 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:10

God treats everyone the same:

Galatians 3:28-29 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Matthew 5:3 - *Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for their's is the kingdom of Heaven.*

God only has two divisions: those who are spiritually poor and recognize their need for a Savior, and those who are spiritually arrogant and reject Him.

Put Off/Put On

Put off making divisions based off of characteristics.

Put on following God by treating everyone equally.

2. Partiality Makes You a Servant to Those To Whom You Are Partial :: 2:6b-7

We have a much greater motivation than the praise of men and the approval of men :: James 2:1 - The Lord of Glory

David Platt - *You don't honor the wealthy because they are rich in money; you honor Christ because he is rich in glory.*

Put Off/Put On

Put off serving others for their approval.

Put on serving our glorious Lord.

3. Partiality Violates the Command to Love One Another :: 2:8-9

Connection to James 2:4 - The one who shows favoritism has wrongly judged that the rich man is more important and will be a greater asset.

1 John 3:16 - *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*

John 13:35 - *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Put Off/Put On

Put off using others for our own gain.

Put on serving others for the glory of God.

Conclusion

Ephesians 2:13-21