

The Sin Beneath Partiality 2017-11-12

James 2:1-4

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

I don't put the microphone on before the first service....people treat me differently if they know I'm the pastor.

- Deep in the DNA of every person is partiality, favoritism, prejudice.
 - 3 synonyms for same sin. James 1:1-3

Partiality: unfair bias primarily based upon externals.

- This not about appropriate distinctions made from love i.e - Handicap parking spot.
- This is an unfair bias based on appearance (here: clothing of rich), race, gender, age, birthplace, possessions, education, political affiliation, health, socio-economic status, occupation.
 - We think in categories that bundle preconceived views which dictate our mistreatment or flattery of others.
 - Partiality is always destructive to Christ-centered community.

In principle, we strongly oppose it yet can excuse it away as culture, heritage, "wisdom"...usually based on worldly criteria rather than God's criteria.

- evangelism (college students/poor), discipleship (little promise/potential)
 - Prince Paul picking successor.

Partiality in any form/flavor is sin and contrary to the nature of God and the gospel.

James 2:8-10, 4, Romans 2:10-11

- God does not show partiality and election is not based on merit or worldly status.
 - God's grace/mercy dictated His treatment of you and He's our example.

To treat without partiality we must show same love/care for needs/feelings/desires to all others as do for ourselves (royal law).....live SELFLESSLY.

- But the foundation of partiality is not selflessness but SELFISHNESS...idolatry of self.
 - Partiality is not ends to itself but means to my own advantage.
 - Include/exclude, do/don't do based on benefit to me not them.
 - Partiality reveals what rules your heart.
 - We become judges seeking glory and security in/from world and people.
 - I need this from you to feel significant/good/successful/acceptable.

Gospel empowers us to spend our lives giving ourselves away rather than pursuing in people what we already have in Jesus Christ...the Lord of glory.

Significance/security/etc.

- Gospel rescues us from making something of ourselves by using others.

- Holy Spirit enables us to shift the focus from self to others and frees us to love instead of use others, give instead take, go back not to front....like Jesus.

To violate God's law on any level is a serious.....Examine life in mirror of James 2:11-13, Romans 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

- Attempts to show impartiality are always imperfect so repent and fall on perfectly impartial God's mercy which will triumph over judgment cause in Jesus Christ.
 - Our identity is no longer children of judgment but children of mercy!
- No mercy/compassion, but continually/habitually walking in partiality, favoritism, prejudice is the characteristic of unsaved. *Gospel*

Gospel that is honest is also the Gospel of hope.

- Grace forgives partiality and transforms us to make us like Jesus.... impartial.
 - Now live in light of the fact Jesus will reward us when we by grace care impartially for needs/feelings/desires of others as we do for ourselves.