

James 2:1-7

The Sin of Partiality

1. A Strong Exhortation Against Partiality: (1)

a. 'My brothers, show no partiality':

- i. 'Partiality' literally means to _____ a _____. –Deut 1:16; 16:19-20
 - ii. Do not make _____ about people based on _____ appearance or economic circumstance. –Lev 19:15; 1 Sam 16:7
- b. 'As you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory':
- i. Faith in Jesus is _____ with partiality. –Jam 2:9; Rom 2:11
 - ii. Christ defines and directs our view of _____. –Matt 11:29; 20:25-28

2. A Vivid Illustration of the Practice of Partiality: (2-4)

a. For if: two different men enter into the assembly of the saints:

- i. 'A man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing.' –Jam 1:10-11
- ii. 'A poor man in shabby clothing'. –Jam 1:9

b. And if: two different responses come from the body:

- i. They pay attention to, and honor, the rich man. –Lk 1:48; 9:38
- ii. They separate, and dishonor the poor man. –Ps 110:1

c. Then:

- i. 'have you not then made distinctions among yourselves' –Jam 1:6
- ii. 'and become judges with evil thoughts?' –Jam 4:11-12; Phil 2:14

3. A Rhetorical Explanation of the Evil of Partiality: (5-7)

a. Question 1: Has not God chosen to _____ and _____ the poor?

- i. He chose this world's poor to be _____ in _____. –1 Cor 1:26-31
- ii. They are _____ of the kingdom promised to those that love Him.
- iii. Such discrimination _____ the poor man. –1 Cor 11:22

b. Question 2: Are not the rich the one who _____ you?

- i. They drag you into court. –Acts 10:38; 16:19;
- ii. They blaspheme the name by which you are called. –Acts 15:17
- iii. Such partiality _____ God's system of _____. –Lk 16:15

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My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.² 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,³ 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,"⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?