

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Study Series: Wisdom for Living – Study of Epistle of James
Part 5: The Sin of Partiality – James 2:1-13

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
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Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Passage	Topic
1/31/2024	James	Part 1: Overview of Epistle of James
2/7/2024	James 1:2–11	Part 2: Growing Through Trials
2/14/2024	James 1:12–18	Part 3: The Process of Temptation
2/21/2024	James 1:19–25	Part 4: Hearing and Doing the Word
2/28/2024	James 2:1–13	Part 5: The Sin of Partiality
3/6/2024	James 2:14–26	Part 6: Faith Without Works Is Dead
3/13/2024	James 3:1–18	Part 7: Taming the Tongue
3/20/2024	James 4:1– 12	Part 8: The Cause of Quarrels
3/27/2024	James 4:13– 5:6	Part 9: Sins of the Wealthy
4/3/2024	James 5:7– 12	Part 10: Patience in Suffering
4/10/2024	James 5:13– 20	Part 11: The Prayer of Faith
4/17/2024	James	Part 12: Summary and Conclusion

Scripture Focus: “James 2:1-4 NIV

[1] My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. [2] Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. [3] If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” [4] have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts.

NOTE:for this teaching we will be using favoritism and partiality interchangeable

DEFINITIONS:

1. **What is sin?** “1 John 3:4 TPT

Sin is breaking God’s law. SIN is simply disobedience. Whether it is in the Hebrew or the Greek – it actually means **to miss the mark**. 2. Refusing to do what one knows is the right thing to do. James 4:17.

2. **Partiality** is an illegitimate distinction between individuals or different groups of people,color, race , language, denomination or community. It is an unfair bias in favor of one thing or person compared with another.

INTRODUCTION

In examining the essence of partiality, it becomes evident that its practice stems from a self-centric perspective, leading to unjust discrimination and fostering evil. Unlike virtues rooted in divine principles of God, partiality finds its origins in cultural norms, perpetuating erroneous perceptions and distorting interpersonal relationships. When one endeavors to integrate cultural standards into their ministry, they compromise the authenticity of serving with God's heart. This unveils the inherent conflict between embracing divine principles and succumbing to societal biases, thus undermining the integrity of the ministry framework.

Some reasons why showing Partiality is prohibited in Scripture:

1. Partiality is NOT consistent with God’s character and Values. God's character and value is LOVE. John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-12, Psalms 36:5-7,Isaiah 54:10

Impartiality is an attribute of God. He is absolutely and totally impartial in dealing with people.

“For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awe-inspiring God, showing no partiality and taking no bribe” Deuteronomy. 10:17.

“For there is no favoritism with God” Romans. 2:11. “There is no favoritism with him Ephesians. 6:9.

“Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism” Acts 10:34.

James addressed a situation in which believers gave preferential treatment to the rich James 2:2-3). **What would motivate this kind of behavior?** Is it not because these believers valued the rich more than they valued the poor? They choose who they want to Love. This is contrary to God's character and values.

2. Partiality is a sin.

James makes clear that partiality is not simply disrespectful of people; it is sin against God. “If ... you show favoritism, you commit sin” (James. 2:9). It is sin because it is contrary to the character and command of God. Because favoritism is sin, there should be no place for it in the hearts of God’s people, and certainly no place for it in the church.

3. The sin of partiality will not be permitted without judgment. God will judge those who do not obey Him and do not operate according to His Word.

QUESTION: Why is it dangerous to practice partiality especially in church?

Examples of Partiality.

- Jesus... Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” John 1:46
- Parents preferring one child to another e.g. Jacob and Esau Genesis27:33,..Jacob loves Joseph more than his brothers. sowing coat of many colors for him.Genesis 37:3-4:
- Judging people based on what they look like(white/black). Acts 10:9-20 the story of Peter calling some people unclean. Putting people in a category without understanding their purpose e.g Generation Z
- At a place of work where one person works hard and excels but sees no benefit while another receives perks and favorable treatment without working for it.
- Judging people based on past mistakes. Moses Exodus 2:11-22.

Negative Effects of Partiality **1.**Merit and qualifications are totally ignored. Genesis 27:5-30. **2.**Quality and Excellent services are a compromise, **3.**Children who feel like they are not loved may develop low self esteem and depression. Joseph’s brothers. Genesis 35.**4.**Hurt feelings, resentment and mistrust among the people **5.** Exhaustion and low work motivation. **6.** Diminished spiritual growth.

QUESTION: How should a believer operate when it comes to treating people correctly?

SOLUTION:

1. **LOVE OF GOD;** A believer should love people and show mercy to those who cannot do anything in return. 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. James 2:8 TPT
2. **Change your thoughts and mindset...** Partiality starts from your thoughts James **2:4 NIV**[4] *have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?* **Philippians 4:8 NIV**[8] *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.* **3. SPEAK UP FOR THE PEOPLE.** Isaiah 60:1-2

CONCLUSION: “We tend to put everyone in some kind of stratified category, higher or lower than other people. It has to do with their looks. their wardrobe, the kind of car they drive, the kind of house they live in; their race, their social status, and outward characteristics of personality. All of those things with God are non-issues.**James 2:12-13 NIV**

