

LOVING PEOPLE IN GRACE WITHOUT PARTIALITY Pt. 1

(James 2:1-7)

I. THE NEED TO RESIST PARTIALITY AND MANIFEST LOVE TOWARDS OTHERS (2:1-13)

A. Partiality DISHONORS the Glory of Jesus Christ (2:1)

1. James wrote this chapter to exhort these believers to deal with this very basic inconsistency in their lives, and that was making _____ or _____ distinctions.
2. Personal favoritism is _____ a glorious characteristic, and it is _____ for a Christian who worships the "*glorious Lord Jesus Christ*" to practice it. (cf. Matt. 22:16 Acts 10:34-35)

B. Partiality Promotes WORLDLY THINKING within the Local Church (2:2-4)

1. The vivid illustration that is used regarding two different men— each at the opposite ends of the _____ might be called, "the case of the nearsighted usher..."
 - a. The first man is wealthy, affluent "*with gold rings*" and brilliant clothing, he is given _____ treatment, and asked to take the _____ seat. (vv. 2a, 3a)
 - b. The second man is poor, dressed in filthy clothing, he probably smells; he is asked to stand in the _____ or to take an _____ seat on the floor. (vv. 2b, 3b)
2. James _____ his audience, and the form of his question in the Greek text expects a positive answer: "_____, haven't you?" (v. 4)

C. Partiality is INCONSISTENT in God's Plan and in Life (2:5-7)

1. James uses three questions, all of which assume a positive answer...

- a. Since there are many believers who (while poor in this life), will be "*heirs of the kingdom*", it would be inconsistent for Christians to _____ from them. (v. 5, cf. Matt. 5:3; Luke 6:20)

* Is it possible for a believer to be among the poorest in the church financially, but among the wealthiest when it comes to spiritual riches and eternal reward?

- b. Instead of favoring Christians, James reminded his readers that the typical _____ of "*the rich*" to them had been to " _____ " them. (v. 6, cf. Mark 13:9; Acts 4:1-3; 13:50; 16:19; 19:23-41)

* Is James suggesting that the rich do not stand a chance in receiving salvation by grace? (Mark 10:20-27; Luke 12:34, Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25)

- c. Apparently the rich in their day _____ believers for their faith in Christ, it would be inconsistent then to show them preferential treatment when they _____ the Lord Jesus. (v. 7)

* How can you personally apply this truth today in your life?