

“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?

[8] If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. [9] But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. [10] For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [11] For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. [12] So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. [13] For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Roadmap

1. Partiality in the 1st Century
2. Partiality in the 21st Century
3. Five Arguments Against Partiality
4. The Cure: How to Be Set Free from the Sin of Partiality

Partiality in the 1st Century

Matthew 23:6:

“they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues.”

Partiality in the 21st Century

Five Arguments Against Partiality

Argument #1: If we practice partiality, we dishonor those God honors (vss. 5-6)

1 Corinthians 1:26:

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.”

Argument #2: why would we show favoritism to the people who treat us so poorly? (vs. 6)



Argument #3: How could you show favoritism to people who blaspheme the name of God? (vs. 7)

1 Corinthians 1:27, 29:

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

Argument #4: when you practice partiality, you are loving yourself, not your neighbor (vss. 8-9)

Argument #5: there are no small sins; partiality will lead to condemnation just the same as adultery or murder (vss. 10-11)

1. We all know that some people deserve to be punished
2. It is not unreasonable for God to punish people forever
3. We have no right to question God’s goodness

“Who is this that questions my wisdom
with such ignorant words?

³ Brace yourself like a man,
because I have some questions for you,
and you must answer them.

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell me, if you know so much.

⁵ Who determined its dimensions
and stretched out the surveying line?

⁶ What supports its foundations,
and who laid its cornerstone

⁷ as the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?

(Job 38:1-7)

The Cure: How to Be Set Free from the Sin of Partiality

“So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. [13] For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

