

BOOK OF JAMES
BEING IMPARTIAL WITH REGARD TO OUR FAITH
JAMES 2:1-8

Ephesians 2:14—“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;”

Galatians 3:28—“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Praise God the barriers were broken down by the Cross of Christ! The Church is a class-free zone! That doesn't mean that we're not gifted differently than someone else! (1 Corinthians 12) But it means that we have all been placed in the same Body— The Body of Christ— and the Holy Spirit places us in the Body and gifts us according to His purposes!

To act differently to someone based on what they have or don't have means that we have become a judge of mens hearts where only the LORD has a right to judge!

Jesus said in *John 7:24* – “*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*”

Since we're talking about **judging righteous judgment**, we're going to take a side bar next week, Lord willing, and see what the Scriptures say about **how to judge righteous judgment!** But for now let's move on! **(Look at verse 5!)**

Listen, when it comes to the things that really matter, **we were ALL spiritually bankrupt** until Jesus changed our status! Now, look at us! Through God's eyes look at us!

Romans 8:16-17—“The Spirit itself testifieth with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”

(Look at 1 Corinthians 1:26ff)

Now let's go back to James and look at verse 6-7!

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He lays them bare with this accusation against their practice of despising the poor! And then he shows them how little sense that makes because it is rich men that were oppressing them!

So, what are we supposed to do? **(Read verse 8)**

If we fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, (Loving our neighbor as ourselves) then we'll do well !

Impartiality reflects God's nature!

Aren't you glad the Gospel is for the whole world? Jesus died for ALL! If that weren't the case, we might have been some of the ones left out!

Deuteronomy 10:17— “For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, who regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:”

God is not impressed with how we look, how much money we've got, how intelligent we are, or how great in the eyes of the world we might be! He is totally impartial!

Leviticus 19:15— “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor.”

In that verse, God has something to say about positive discrimination and negative discrimination.

On the one hand, He says that we are not to give preferential treatment to the mighty - the rich and the powerful. There's no doubt that in the worldly system this happens all the time. But it should never happen in the Church!

On the other hand, God says that we should never look at the disadvantaged and allow our judgment to be swayed based on the fact that they don't have much.