

Sermon Outline

James 2:1-13

Introduction:

The church is to be “one people” in love and respect to each other
Obeying the word, the law of liberty, includes showing mercy - 1:25,27
Christians should never allow partiality to enter into the church’s life

1: Partiality Is Inconsistent With Faith In Christ: 1-4

The possibility that partiality *is* taken place - and it needs to stop!
- judging by outward appearances - poor, race, colour, etc.
Christ is the Lord of glory - God! 1Cor. 2:8; Ps. 29:3; Acts 7:2
- He is the Judge (not man) -1:12-13; 5:9; Acts 10:42; 17:31
God does not show partiality - Dt. 10:17; Gal. 2:6; neither should we -
- Deut. 1:17; Lev. 19:15; Ps. 82:2; Prov. 6:35; 18:5
To show partiality is to invite the Lord’s judgement!

2: Partiality Is Inconsistent With The Lord’s Gracious Election: 5-7

All 3 questions asked have to be answered in the affirmative

A: *The Principle:* Partiality is contrary to the purposes of God: 5-6a

The Doct. of unconditional election in Scripture

- Deut. 4:37; 7:6-7; Rom. 9:11-16; Eph. 1:4; 1Pet. 2:9

Even the believing poor have spiritual riches through Christ - 1:9

B: *The Application:* Partiality aligns you with the enemies of God: 6b-7

Just look at the parallel to the OT - Jer. 7:5-7; 22:3; Eze. 18:7; Mal. 3:5

- Read Amos to see how the wealthy used their power

A similar thing was taking place then by these unbelieving rich

3: Partiality Is Inconsistent With God’s Law Of Love: 8-13

* Note the normative use of the moral Law here - cf. Rom. 13:8-10

- there is to be no dichotomy between God’s law & love to Him

Love for our neighbour includes treating people fairly & impartially

We all will stand before the Lord - 2Cor. 5:10

People who have faith will show mercy as they know God’s mercy!

Application:

We must remember that all believers are one in Christ - Gal. 3:28-29