

James: Living Counter-Culturally

Sunday, June 10, 2018

James 2:1-13

“God has shown abundant mercy to us, so we can show mercy to others. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

I. Partiality is Sin (v.1-4)

Define partiality or favoritism:

‘literally receiving a face’ or receiving a person because of outward appearance – jewelry, clothes, race, etc.

II. Partiality is Against God’s Character

v.5 – James says *“has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom...”*

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 – *“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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”*

Romans 2:11 – *“For God shows no partiality.”*

Ephesians 6:9 – *“Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven and that there is no partiality with him.”*

1 Peter 1:17 – *“And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds”*

III. Partiality is Against the Gospel

v.2:1 – *‘hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.’*

Galatians 3:25-28 – *“But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew or Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

IV. Partiality is Against Our Christian Character

v.8 – *“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.”*

Ephesians 5:1,2 – *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us; a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

1 Peter 2:17 – *“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”*

“Mercy triumphs over judgment” –

James is reminding his listeners that if they continue to show partiality or discriminate they place themselves in danger of facing a harsh judgment.

Matthew 18:21-35

V. Conclusion

The goal for us is not to show partiality or favoritism towards anyone, but to extend love and mercy.