

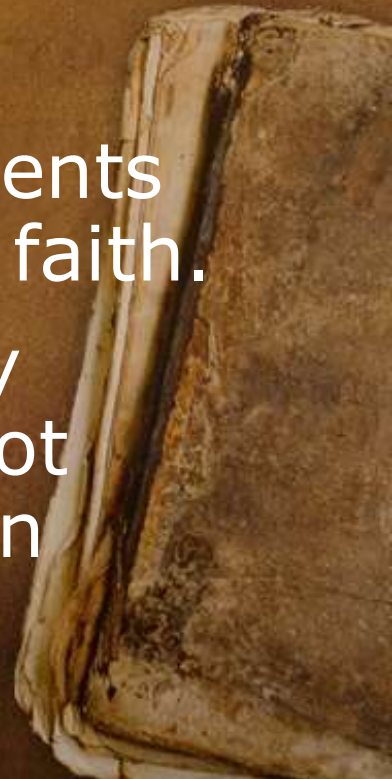
The Book of
JAMES

**The Problem with
Partiality**

James 2:1-13

Partiality

- The principle of partiality goes against the character of our faith.
- Partiality is unworthy of the life of a believer.
- Jesus is not honored by followers who pick and choose their relationships here on earth.
- Showing partiality for Christians represents a willingness to settle for mediocrity in faith.
- Partiality leaves you unwilling to be any better, and that kind of attitude does not mesh with the kind of Savior we have in Jesus.



The Pattern Of Our Faith

- The rich man and poor man, in verses 2-4, represent opposite ends of the economic spectrum.
- In James' example the treatment of the one was just as bad as the treatment of the other.
- The attitude toward the two men represented two very different extremes in welcoming newcomers to the fellowship.
- It is impossible for us to build a vital faith if we put more stock in people than we do in God.



The Truth About Partiality

- Partiality realigns the priorities of our faith.
- Those who are poor are more likely to be rich in faith.
- Those who are wealthy are more likely to create problems for believers.
- The wealthy are used to having things their way, so they believe the church ought to operate according to their desires.

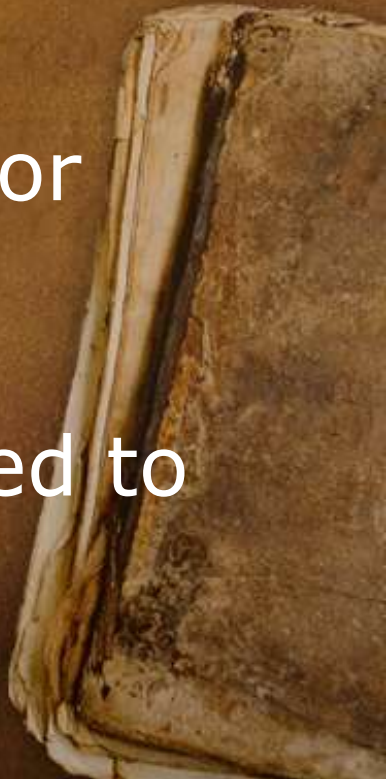


The Practice Of Partiality

- The practice of partiality violates the laws of our faith.
- James reveals that the Law was imperfect in that, while it caused man to realize his sin, it offered no lasting way out of sin.
- The royal law, according to James, is "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"
- Showing partiality is a violation of the royal law.
- The sin of partiality is not an issue of "how" as much as it is a question of "why."



How to Live

- Christians are to live in accordance with the Good News of the Gospel.
 - The need of every believer is mercy.
 - Christians should be about the business of showing mercy.
 - Partiality is treating a person better or worse than he deserves for selfish reasons.
 - God's mercy in judgment is connected to our practice of mercy while here on earth.
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Conclusion

- If we look into God's Word and fail to do anything about it, we are doing God and ourselves a great disservice.
 - It takes real commitment in living our faith to rise above the level of mediocrity.
 - It's easier to love your neighbor when you are doing it because you love Jesus.
 - If you're going to be kind to a person, do it according to what God has done for you, not according to what you want that person to do for you.
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