

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 24, 2016

“Faith That Works: The Letter of James ~

The Problem of Partiality”

James 2:1-13

Whether we admit it or not, most of us carry a list in our minds of _____ and _____ people.

Regardless of what it is, there’s a part of all of us, that likes to be around people like _____.

Our world is becoming more and more _____; it’s dividing more and more into _____ and camps—into them vs. _____.

This polarization only leads to further misunderstanding, _____, hatred, and ultimately _____.

“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?” (James 2:1)

The New Testament is very clear that God shows no _____.

“For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16)

“For God shows no partiality.” (Acts 12:11)

The phrase “no _____” occurs twice in the book of Romans.

- in reference to our human sinfulness

“There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:22-23)

- in reference to God’s grace extended to all who call on Him

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:12-13)

Despite this, _____ seems to always find a way to sneak into the church. We can favour people based on:

What James is telling us here is that we can’t profess _____ in Jesus and at the same time be a spiritual _____.

**Have you ever showed favoritism in the church?
Are you guilty of the sin of partiality?**

James challenges us with the truth this morning that it’s not possible to have faith in Jesus and glorify the _____ of people at the same time.

As Christians, our only glory is _____. When we glory in the status of people, we forget how far we _____ short of God’s glorious _____.

The only thing any of us have a right to glory in, is the _____ of Christ.

HOW TO BE IMPARTIAL: 4 WAYS TO TREAT OTHER PEOPLE

#1. Treat others in light of godly _____.

“For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, ‘You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor’—well, doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?” (James 2:2-4)

We all know that we shouldn’t treat people based on _____.

We treat people differently because we like to set _____ up as judge and jury.

“...have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 1:4)

SHOWING PARTIALITY

- We determine the _____ between the people in question.
- We make a _____ as to which person is better, often based on _____. Almost inevitably, we will choose the person who is most like _____.

When we’re judging between people, we are setting _____ up as the standard. Whenever we show partiality in the way we treat people, we’re doing it out of a _____ motive.

Our motives can be selfish, and our natural way of treating people is to give preference to those who will _____ us or make us look _____

**Why do I treat this person kindly? Is it so I can get something in return?
Why do I treat this person poorly? Is it to make me look better?**

#2. Treat others in light of God's _____.

“Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? But you dishonour the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?” (James 2:5-7)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

God takes people who are completely _____ of anything good in His eyes and makes them His _____. He takes people who have no claim to anything of His and adopts them as His _____.

“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.” (Ephesians 1:5-6)

God treats us the way He does so that we will _____ Him above all.

“But you have dishonoured the poor.” (James 2:6)

Dishonoured = ‘ati-mazo’ =

Why do we look down on those who have less than we do? Why do we focus on the flaws of those around us? Because we're trying to exalt _____ and not God.

God isn't exalted by words that _____ or _____—words that exalt us or show partiality.

If we're called by the name of Christ, then He's the one who ought to be exalted by the way we treat _____, not ourselves. Doing this is compared _____.

“Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?” (James 2:7)

**Think about the conversations you've had this past week.
Did you spend more time exalting God or yourself?**

#3. Treat others in light of Jesus' _____.

“Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ But if you favour some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said, ‘You must not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘You must not murder.’ So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.” (James 2:8-11)

“The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)

If we're not following Jesus' commandments, we're _____ them.

If we break just one commandment, we break them _____. If we don't treat someone right, on a _____ level, we're just as guilty before God as if we had committed adultery or murder.

**How well do you live out the Great Commandment?
Do you love all of your neighbours as yourself?**

#4. Treat others in light of God's _____.

“So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.” (James 2:12-13)

We may not agree with some one's choices, opinions, politics, or world view; however, that doesn't mean we shouldn't show them _____. And showing mercy doesn't mean compromising the _____.

No matter who we are, we are nothing without God's _____ and mercy.

“For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed.” (Deuteronomy 10:17)

When you see a fellow believer, do you see their faults and shortcomings?

Or do you see the blood of Jesus?

When you see an unbeliever, do you see their sinfulness and behavior?

Or do you see someone that Jesus loved enough to die for?