

Be Humbly Impartial

James 2:1-13

A. The Charge (2:1)

1. Who is charged? *“My brethren”*

- a) The following instruction is for _____ in Christ (James 1:18, John 1:11-13)
- b) Implication: the following is NOT meant as a _____ to determine who has eternal life.

2. What do believers in Christ do? *“hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory”*

- a) _____ believers “hold the faith” in some way or another as representatives of Christ.
- b) The Lord Jesus Christ is glorious, _____ of the best representatives.
- c) Believers are charged to carry out our representation without _____.

B. The Sin of Partiality (2:2-11)

1. The example introduced (v2-4)

- a) Favoring a rich man _____ a poor man who enters the assembly is partiality.
- b) The evaluation of _____ upon a believer who does this: “judges with evil thoughts.”

2. The error of partiality exposed (v5-7)

- a) It is not _____ thinking that leads to poor treatment of the poor, so the partiality described in verse 3 comes from “evil thoughts”. (v5)

**This verse describes one type of person who is honored by God in three ways:*

- “poor of this world” – a man who is poor in the eyes of the world, based on the standards of human society (though not poor in the most important ways)
- “rich in faith” – a man who has become rich by means of faith
- “heirs of the kingdom” – a man who is a prince of God, who will inherit the kingdom

- b) It is not even neutral, _____ thinking that leads to favoring the rich, so the partiality described in verse 3 comes from “evil thoughts”. (v6-7)

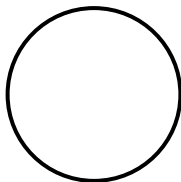
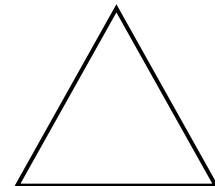
3. The error of partiality substantiated (v8-9)

- a) The _____ precept of the word of God compels believers of every dispensation to demonstrate love without reservation or discrimination.
- b) Anyone who shows partiality is _____ by the law as a transgressor.

4. The sinfulness of a partial believer pressed (v10-11)

- a) God's standard of righteousness is pure and utter _____.
- b) Even if you have not sinned in the same _____ as others, you are on equal footing with all sinners in the sight of God.

Gospel Connection – Everyone is guilty before God



c. The Application (2:12-13)

- a) “so speak and so do” (treat people in a certain way) because God is _____ you by the standard of “the law of liberty” (His word), a standard for which you require mercy in order to be well-received.
- b) If you _____ to evaluate others mercifully, you are holding on to self-righteous filthiness, and will be receiving a negative evaluation from God in your walk (“judgement without mercy”), hindering fellowship with God.
- c) The entreaty to the child of God is to see to goodness of our Father and receive His word: “Mercy triumphs over judgement” → God's way is _____.