

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**James: Treating All Alike - James 2:1-13
October 13, 2016**

I. A most pervasive problem.

A. What does it mean to show partiality?

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

B. A portrait of partiality:

²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ...

1. In James' day
2. In our day

C. The problem with partiality.

⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

II. The powerful antidote.

A. Embrace Jesus Christ for who He really is:

...our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

"BECAUSE of the grandeur of the true glory of Jesus Christ our Lord, how can we hold our faces above the people around us?

BECAUSE Jesus Christ alone is the Lord of glory, we are to reject the kinds of pretense and discrimination toward other people that depend on a working theory of our own personal superiority.

BECAUSE of His glory, we are able to relax, without the need to impress other people with our glory. This becomes for us a reason for humility and an altogether healthy antidote to pretentiousness or discrimination toward others.

I KNOW ONE who deserves the glory, so my head is not so easily turned by the lesser luminosities of life."
- Earl F. Palmer, *The Book James Wrote*, pp. 50-51, 66.

B. Cherish a grateful humility for God's grace.

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

1. Saving
2. Sovereign

C. God's royal law.

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

1. "Plow" your heart.
2. Readily repent.

D. Extend God's triumphant mercy.

¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.