

EVIL FAVORITISM
JAMES 2:1-4
November 2, 2008 Sunday Morning

INTRODUCTION:

James wants us to continue to practice the Word of Truth by not showing favoritism toward certain people. He wants us to mimic the holy character of our Lord and Savior who did not show favoritism toward anyone.

1. THE IMPARTIALITY OF GOD

- a. Evil favoritism is inconsistent with our faith in Jesus Christ. vs.1

Partiality=showing personal favoritism toward someone due to superficial reasons

- The principle of true faith and being a doer of the Word will come forth and manifest itself in non-prejudicial attitudes and activities.

- b. Evil favoritism does not reveal the glory of God. vs.1

Glory=the Shekinah of God in the tabernacle, the temple, and Jesus Christ John 1:14

Evil=vicious intentions vs.4

- c. Evil favoritism should be inconsequential to the child of God. vs.2

- 1) The appearance of people

- a) The rich man

Gold rings=gold fingered

Fine apparel=clothes that are brilliant in fashion and color
Mark 12:38,39

- b) The poor man

Filthy clothes=cheap, shabby clothes of a man of meager means or no means at all

- 2) The attitude of people vs.3

- a) Judgment here was passed on by mere outward appearance.
- b) The attitude of the world is all together different from God's attitude.
- c) God is no respector of persons, no matter who they are; and we should emulate Him.

3) The appraisal of people vs.4

Show partiality=making evil distinctions among ourselves concerning who we socialize with

MacArthur: "Among Christians such discrimination is much more than poor hospitality, it is plainly evil and wickedness with vicious intentions."

HOW DO WE PRACTICE THE IMPARTIALITY OF GOD IN OUR OWN LIVES?

Look at everyone through the eyes of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory.