

A Community of Equals

Point 1

Persons who are a part of the Christian Faith should not practice partiality.

 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with **respect of persons**. (*prosopolepsia*) [pro-so- po-lay-SEE-ah] **James 2:1 (KJV)**

Point 2

James gives an example of partiality as it relates to *economic* partiality.

 ² For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a **poor** man in vile raiment; ³ And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, **Sit** thou here in a **good place**; and say to the **poor**, **Stand** thou there, or sit here under my **footstool**.
James 2:2-3 (KJV)

Point 3

Persons who are a part of the Christian Faith should not try to judge the thoughts or motives of other people based on their outside appearances.

 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of **evil thoughts**?
James 2:4 (KJV)

 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before **the judgment seat of Christ**.
Romans 14:10 (KJV)

Point 4

Rich in *faith* is not necessarily the same as being rich with *money*.

 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the **poor** of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? **James 2:5 (KJV)**

Point 5

The poor should be treated with dignity.

 But ye have **despised** (atimazo) – [ah-tee-MAH-zo] the **poor**. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? **James 2:6 (KJV)**

Point 6

The *Rich* is the group that is more oppressive to the people of God.

 ⁶ But ye have despised (atimazo) – [ah-tee-MAH-zo] the **poor**. Do not rich men **oppress** you, and draw you before the judgment seats? ⁷ Do not they **blaspheme** that worthy name by the which ye are called?
James 2:6-7 (KJV)

Point 7

Persons who are a part of the Christian Faith should love their neighbor.

 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as **thyself**, ye do well:
James 2:8 (KJV)

Point 8

Our neighbor is anyone who is in need. The poor are in need.

 ³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? ³⁷ And he said, He that shewed **mercy** on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**
Luke 10:36-37 (KJV)

Point 9

James listed several things that are sins, including partiality.

Adultery

Murder

Partiality (*Respect of Person*)

Segregation

Racism

 ⁹ But if ye have **respect to persons**, (*prosopolepsia*) [pro-so-po-lay-SEE-ah] ye commit **sin**, and are convinced of the law as **transgressors**. ¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a **transgressor** of the law.

James 2:9-11 (KJV)

Point 10

James tells his listeners that it is not enough just to be *saying the right things*, but Christians should also be *doing the right things* relative to treating everybody as equals.

 So **speake** ye, and so **do** as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

James 2:12 (KJV)

Point 11

God has been merciful unto us, and we should be merciful to all people, *not just some people*.

 For he shall have judgment without **mercy**, that hath shewed no **mercy**; and **mercy** rejoiceth against judgment.

James 2:13 (KJV)

Greek Word Study

Prosopolepsia (pro-so-po-lay-SEE-ah) – showing partiality often translated *respect of person*

Atimazo (ah-tee-MAH-zo) – to dishonor

Hamartia (hah-mah-TEE-ah) – missing the mark
translation for the word *sin*

Parabaino (pah-rah-BAH-no) – to go beyond the mark often translated *transgression*



¹ My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with **respect of persons**. (*prosopolepsia*) [pro-so- po-lay-SEE-ah]

² For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a **poor** man in vile raiment;

³ And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a **good place**, and say to the **poor**, Stand thou there, or sit here under my **footstool**.

⁴ Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the **poor** of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

⁶ But ye have despised (*atimazo*) - (ah-tee-MAH-zo) the **poor**. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

⁷ Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

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⁹ But if ye have **respect to persons**, (*prosopolepsia*) [pro-so-po-lay-SEE-ah] ye commit **sin**, and are convinced of the law as **transgressors**.

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¹³ For he shall have judgment without **mercy**, that hath shewed no **mercy**; and **mercy** rejoiceth against judgment.