

JESUS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SAVIOR.

Q: What is partiality?

A: Where the value we place on persons depends on their ethnicity or socio-economic status. Partiality is a practical denial of the *imago dei*, that every person has intrinsic value having been made in the image of God.

Dangers of Partiality:

- Partiality **prostitutes** the Gospel – 2:1

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

“There will be oppression unless the gospel is spread. This is the one balm for all earth’s wounds... Oh, let us then, since this is the best thing that can be, show our love to God and man by spreading his saving truth.” – Charles Spurgeon

- Rich man given the best seat in the house – 2:2-3

For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and 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,”

- Poor man told to sit on the floor – 2:2-3

- Partiality places us **above** God – 2:4

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

How so?

- Assumes atheism in that we are the final arbiters on how much persons are worth.
- Endorses **materialism**: Value = \$\$\$.

- Poor believers have a **high rank** in God’s kingdom – 2:5

Listen, 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?

- Partiality causes **irrational** decision-making – 2:6-7

But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

- Partiality is **rebellion** against the King’s Law – 2:8-9

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Leviticus 19:18

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The King’s Law:

- The King’s Law is not a **cafeteria** – 2:10-11

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For 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.

- The King’s children are called to **consistency** – 2:12-13

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.