

## *The Sin of Discrimination*

*James 2:1-4*

We live in a sinful society that is being torn fast by man's indifference, pride, prejudice and discrimination.

In this second chapter, James begins by saying that discrimination and partiality is a sin. It is sinful because it is contrary to the very nature and character of God. God is impartial. (Deut. 10:17, 2 Chro.19:7, Job 34:17 -19, Mal. 2:9, Acts 10:34, Rom. 2:11, Eph. 6:9, Col. 3:25, 4:1, 1 Tim. 5:19; Deut. 1:17; 16:19).

The way we treat other people (particularly the poor) is a test of true saving faith (1 John 3:16).

### ***Sermon Outline***

#### ***1. The Principle \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 1)***

James is saying that if I profess to have the faith in Jesus Christ but at the same time I show favoritism or respect of persons, then my life is a contradiction.

This was a potential sin in the church because most of the members of the church are poor (Acts 2:45, Acts 4:35-37, James 2:5).

Discrimination, prejudice or partiality means the superficial judgment of people by Christians strictly on the basis of their external, outward appearance. It is sin (James 2:9) because it devalues people who are made in the image of God and consequently we devalue God Himself (Proverbs 17:5).

Jesus Himself showed no partiality (Matthew 22:16).

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#### ***2. The Practice \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 2)***

James illustrates the principle with a hypothetical situation of having two visitors come in to their worship service: one as a gold-fingered man in shining bright clothes and the second described as a poor man (literally a beggar) with his filthy clothes. How should they behave?

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#### ***3. The Problem \_\_\_\_\_ (verses 3, 4)***

The problem comes in the way we treat the two visitors (mentioned above) like the Pharisees (Matthew 23:6). If we show discrimination and partiality towards others we have become judges whose thoughts are evil. We give indication that our faith is not true because we are breaking God's commandment in Matthew 7:1.

The Bible despises partiality. Proverbs 18:5, 28:21

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Like any other sin, we all struggle with this sin of discrimination and prejudice. And it's only by the grace, the mercy and the strength of God that we are able to overcome this sin. But let's start confessing it and forsaking it and let's encourage others to do the same. Let's pray that God, by His common grace, will work even in the hearts of sinful man to curtail the sin of discrimination.