

# Faith and Partiality

Wednesday Gathering; Week of Sunday, July 19, 2020; Steve Thiel

---

**Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in the midst of difficulties, because God uses trials to strengthen our faith in Christ. True believers are commanded and empowered to love their brothers and sisters in Christ without partiality, because God first loved us in Him!**

## **I. Condemnation of Partiality – Read James 2:1-4**

- A. How would you summarize James chapter 1 in order to put James 2:1-13 in context?
  
- B. What type of partiality is taking place in this church? Why is it such a problem? As you look at James' summary statements in verse 1 and verse 9, what's his reaction to this type of behavior?
  
- C. What are some of the ways in which you have seen partiality play out in the church? In what ways are you prone to struggle with showing favoritism, maybe even unintentionally?

## **II. Explanation of Partiality – Read James 2:5-11**

- A. Can you list the 3 reasons why partiality is wrong according to these verses? For starters, how does it contradict the truth about who God is and how He has treated us in Christ Jesus our Lord?
  
- B. How does partiality contradict the reality of society? After reading James 5:1-6, how have these believers often been treated by the wealthy? Knowing this, why do you think we still have a desire to know and be friends with the rich and the famous, celebrities and famous actors and actresses?
  
- C. In what ways does partiality contradict the royal law of love? How is Leviticus 19:15-18 helpful as you think about your "neighbor" being your brother and sister in Christ? How does this idea fit with what Jesus says in Matthew 22:34-40 and John 13:34-35?
  
- D. How would you like to grow in loving your neighbor as yourself?

## **III. Consequences of Partiality – Read James 2:12-13**

- A. Why is it so encouraging that James calls us to speak and to act according to the law of liberty? How does John 8:36 and Galatians 5:13-14 help us to understand the law of liberty?
  
- B. In what ways would you like to exercise your freedom over sin to actively love this particular body of Christ? How do you plan on initiating with people who are very different than you?
  
- C. After reading Revelation 7:9-10, how does the throne room of heaven filled with people from every nation, tribe, and people an encouragement to love your neighbor as yourself? How is the decision not to love your brother and sister in Christ a warning of false faith (1 John 4:19-21)?