

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Our Folly Part 3

Partiality

Vs. 1- Imperative—> *Show no *partiality* (literally-Lift your face to someone, *look down your nose*) as (or because) you are a Christian, one who *holds the faith*. Faith in what? The *LORD Jesus!* Who is Jesus? *The Lord of Glory* (the quality of splendid, remarkable appearance—'glory, splendor.'¹) This should not be skipped as a simple description. James seems to be intentionally calling us back to the Gospel, in which we are being transformed—> *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18.* These are the truths we hang the commands on! The motivators to the action needed to live as those who are free!!

The rest of the arguments in the verses below defends this statement/ imperative. Here's the structure...

vs. 1. Do not show partiality

Vs. 2-4, Gives *specific*² example

Vs. 5, Listen (imperative)—>Don't forget, "that was once you"

Vs. 6-7, Rebuke, appealing to reason

Vs. 8, The pinnacle of his argument. The Royal Law

Vs. 9, It's a sin!

Vs. 10-11, It's not a "small" sin!

Vs. 12, Live as your called!

Vs. 13, Show mercy

Vs. 2-3. A possible specific example. Note it says "*comes into your assembly*", which gives our direct context. Do not show partiality anywhere, especially the church, which is where people come as they are searching for God. What a crime against the kingdom to keep people from God because of our snobbery.

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#)

² See "Commentaries" below on Vs. 2-4

"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob. Real Christians are known by their love."³

Vs. 4. *Made distinctions in your heart.*

This is an interesting statement because making distinctions in themselves aren't evil. The text itself makes distinctions between poor (shabby) and fine. The difference is what we do with those distinctions, in other words, how we treat people based on our observations. The FCF is clearly an exaltation of the rich and a callousness to the poor. Yet this is not how God treats us. The exact opposite actually; "God opposes the proud and gives grace the humble"

Vs. 5, Imperative→ "Listen". The command is to ponder the question. The question reveals a remedy. Have you forgotten where you came from? Not your past, or where you were born, but have you forgotten where you were before you were received into God's kingdom?

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. Colossians 1:13

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:1-3

I get it... Do we really need to hear how bad I was? Or am? I already feel inadequate most days. Why do you feel like you have to remind me?

1. The bible consistently reminds us of our sin yet, do not leave us there. It does not, at that point, remind us of how good we are as to promote our

³ Growing Slowly Wise; Building a Faith that Works. David Roper, pg. 87

self-esteem. It points to how good God is & the redemption we have in Jesus.

2. Yet, it's not just theological, it's pragmatic. This mindset keeps us from the pride that got us here in the first place.

Read Andrew Murray's, *Humility*, pg. 23 "Our Need"

Pride is really what's being addressed. Pride has no place in the Christian's heart. *"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob."*

The answer is Jesus! (Explain process)

"His humility is our salvation. His salvation is our humility" Andrew Murray

Read vs. 6-7, In our context, it's not just the rich, but it's showing partiality to someone we want to be accepted by, a person or group of people, but they do not have a Gospel mindset.

Or people that are different than you, that make you feel uncomfortable, there will be a tendency to "discriminate" against as NASB says, or to show "favoritism" (NIV) to those like you.

-Does this happen in Christian circles? YES

- Cliques→ affinity groups; may start good. A group of like minded people getting together around a shared lifestyle, but it can become a source of snobbery... "looking down the nose" at someone who doesn't share that activity of lifestyle. Politics, Worship music, basically any non-essential doctrine that becomes the center rather than biblically centered doctrines, usually becomes a source of pride leading to being a snob. Remember, *"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob. Why? Real Christians are known by their love."*

Read vs. 8- Next week we will spend the whole sermon examining this one text, including a look at Proverbs to see if it has any wisdom to how to Love our neighbor. As a teaser, here's one...

Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. Proverbs 27:14

Should be a good time!

For our context, James puts this in here to point to yet another remedy to our partiality and pride. The first was to remember who we were before the grace of God, the second is implied... Remember God's love.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11

"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob. Real Christians are known by their love."

And just in case you're thinking, "it's not that big of deal. So I like what and who I like and I don't feel I need to spend time with others that aren't like me."

James has some words for you...

Read 2:9-11. Everyone has pride. Everyone is a little partial... What's the big deal? Well, it's as guilty of murder.

Read Vs. 12, Speak & Act as those who are free. Here's How....

-The "law of Liberty" is no doubt referring to "Love your neighbor"

Read Vs. 13, Mercy: to show kindness or concern for someone in serious need.
Pity, compassion.

We run towards this in need, not anyway from!

Read Luke 10:25-37

"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob. Real Christians are known by their love."

Go and do likewise...

Pray

Blessing