

# Temptation 1: Showing Partiality and Favouritism

James 02: 01–13

## 1 *The charge against showing partiality*

1 My brothers,  
as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ,  
don't show favouritism.

## 2 *The picture of partiality:*

### *Two unbelieving church visitors*

a. One rich — one poor

2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting  
wearing a gold ring and fine clothes,  
and a poor man in shabby clothes  
also comes in.

b. Partiality shown to the rich

3 If you show special attention  
to the man wearing fine clothes  
and say, "Here's a good seat for you,"  
but say to the poor man,  
"You stand there"  
or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

## 3 *The wrong of partiality*

a. It sets one up as a judge

4 Have you not discriminated among yourselves  
and become judges with evil thoughts?

b. It reveals evil thoughts

c. It discriminates against the poor:  
A people especially loved by God

5 Listen, my dear brothers:  
Has not God chosen those  
who are poor in the eyes of the world  
to be rich in faith  
and to inherit the kingdom  
he promised those who love him?

d. It shows a disgraceful attitude

6 But you have insulted the poor.  
Is it not the rich who are exploiting you?  
Are they not the ones  
who are dragging you into court?

e. It shows foolish behaviour:

It honours those  
who are so oppressive  
and who slander the name of Christ

7 Are they not the ones  
who are slandering the noble name of him  
to whom you belong?

## 4 *The warning against partiality*

a. It is sin;  
it violates the royal law of love

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture,  
"Love your neighbour as yourself,"  
you are doing right.

b. It makes one guilty of the whole law

9 But if you show favouritism,  
you sin  
and are convicted by the law  
as lawbreakers.

<p>c. It is just as serious as adultery and murder</p> <p><b><i>5 The motivations against partiality</i></b></p> <p>a. We shall be judged</p> <p>b. We shall receive exactly what we have done: A reciprocal judgment</p>	<p>10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.</p> <p>11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.</p> <p>12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,</p> <p>13 Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!</p>
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