

FAITH

&

PARTIALITY

ARE INCOMPATIBLE

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1)



**FAITH**

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**PARTIALITY**

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**PARTIALITY IS NOT JUST A  
MODERN DAY PROBLEM**

In the first century, A.D.,  
polarized conditions governed  
society; people were either rich  
or poor, slaves or free, Jew or  
Gentile, Greek or barbarian





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**PARTIALITY IS NOT JUST A  
MODERN DAY PROBLEM**

The **Sin Of Partiality** is  
**VERY** prevalent today,  
(RACE / EDUCATION /  
ECONOMIC / AGE / GENDER)





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In Christ Jesus **ALL** social,  
cultural, & economic barriers  
are **broken down** -  
(Acts 10:34,35; Rom. 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:13)

### Colossians 3:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> where there is neither Greek nor  
Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised,  
barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free,  
but Christ *is* all and in all.





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In Christ Jesus **ALL** social,  
cultural, & economic barriers  
are **broken down** -  
(Acts 10:34,35; Rom. 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:13)

### Galatians 3:27–29 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.





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## **James 2:1–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

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## **James 2:1–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.



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## **James 2:1–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, “*Do not commit adultery,*” also said, “*Do not murder.*” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.



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**James 2:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with partiality

### Defining Partiality

**Louw Nida 88.238** - (an idiom, literally ‘to accept a face’): to make unjust distinctions between people by treating one person better than another—‘to show favoritism, to be partial, partiality.’





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**James 2:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality

- It is inconsistent to claim faith in Jesus & show respect of persons (John 4:9; Mat 8:5,10; 4:18,19; 9:9,10; Luke 7:36; John 7:24)
- As Christians, we profess to be Christ's followers, and are to imitate Him (Lk 6:40)
- If we show partiality we ARE NOT truly following Jesus, we dishonor Him, and turn people away from Him (Rom. 2:23,24)



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**James 2:2–4 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

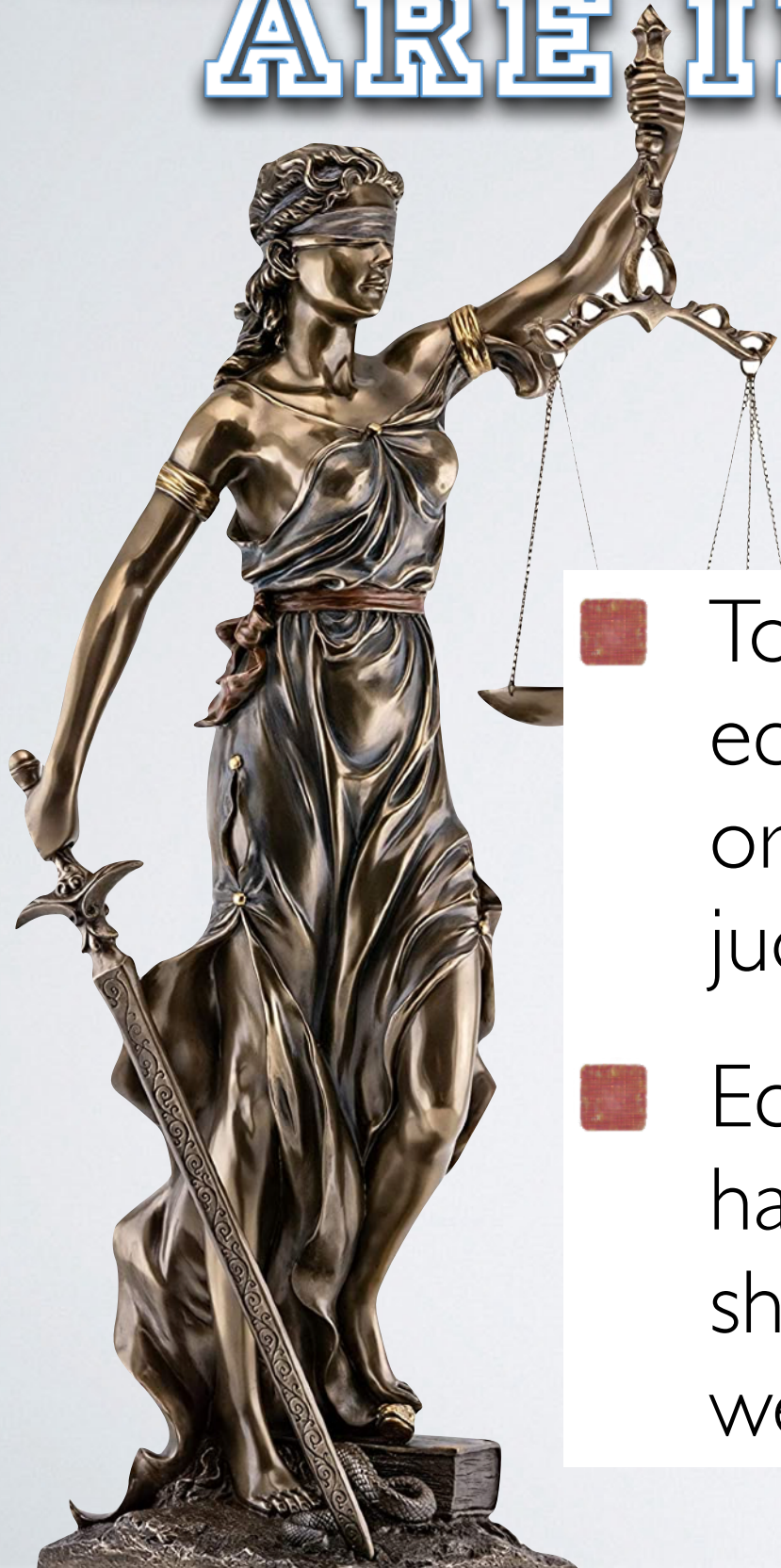


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**James 2:4 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

- To treat a person differently because of their economic or social class, their nationality or race, or any other superficial quality is to “become judges with evil thoughts!” ((Mat. 7:1–5; Jno. 7:24.)
- Economic class, education, race or nationality, have no bearing on our value before God, nor should these things have any bearing on the value we place on others! (Job 34:19; Acts 10:34)



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**James 2:5–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

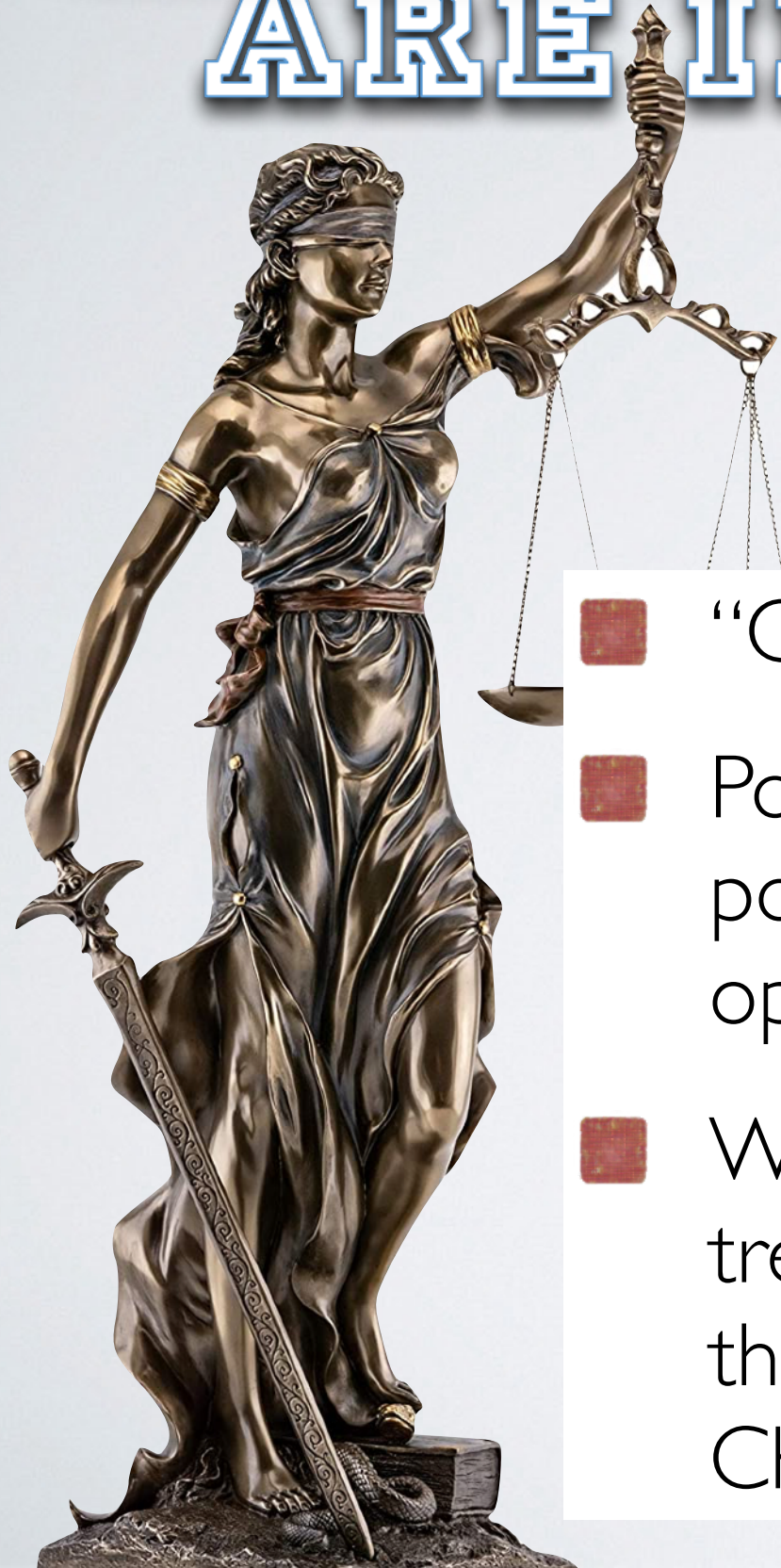


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**James 2:5 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

- “God has chosen the poor” (1:9; John 7:48)
- Poverty is not a virtue in itself, nor is wealth! Poor possess less occasions for pride - and often more open to the gospel message (1 Cor 1:26-28)
- Was it reasonable for them to show preferential treatment for the rich, for those who oppressed them, took from them, and blasphemed Christianity? (Jam 5:1-6; Ps. 14:6; Ec. 9:15, 16; etc)



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### James 2:8–11 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, “*Do not commit adultery,*” also said, “*Do not murder.*” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.



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**James 2:8 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well;

- God's law, (both the O.C. & N.C.), says love your neighbor as yourself (Deut 6:4,5; Mat 7:12; 19:19; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:36,37ff; Rom 13:8,9; Gal 5:14)
- To be guilty of violating God's law in ANY point is to stand condemned before God (2:10,11; Gal. 3:10)
- Partiality is just as much sin as adultery.



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**James 2:12–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



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**James 2:13 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.  
Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- The “perfect law of liberty” is the gospel - the law that has set us free from the bondage of sin through the mercy shown in Christ (Jn 8:31-36)
- We must stand fast in this “liberty” by submitting to it (Gal. 5:1; Rom 13:9,10)
- The gospel demands mercy (2:13; Mat 6:14,15; 7:1,2; 25:41-46; Eph 2:4-7)



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**TO APPLY**



**DO WE VIEW  
EVERY SOUL as  
being EQUALLY  
valuable?  
Jesus died for  
each & every one!  
(1 John 2:1,2)**

**EVANGELISM:** The Gospel Is For ALL

- ▶ All nations (Mat 28:19)
- ▶ Every creature (Mark 16:15)
- ▶ Every race, nationality - Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, genders (Acts 2; 8; 10:34; Gal. 3:28)
- ▶ Rich & poor (Gal 3:28; Col 3:11)



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## TO APPLY



<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Galatians 3:28 (NKJV)**



### CONGREGATIONAL:

- ▶ Welcoming to all (James 2:1-8)
- ▶ Equally extend Love, kindness, mercy & hospitality to all (Rom. 12:3-16)
- ▶ Opportunities for all to serve as allowed in scripture (1 Cor. 12:13-26; 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:10-15)
- ▶ Discipline (1 Cor. 5; 2 Thes. 3:13-15)



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**Brethren, we serve A  
GLORIOUS LORD, we serve  
to do things to His glory**

**May we NEVER allow the sin  
of partiality, bias, prejudice,  
or racism to taint that  
wonderful glory in any way!**





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**Jesus considered you  
valuable enough to die for  
you - will you honor Him by  
obeying Him? (Mk. 16:16)**

**God will judge each one of  
us according to the gospel of  
His Son without partiality  
(Acts 17:30; Rom. 5:11)**









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<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1)



## Leviticus 19:15–18 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup> You shall not go about *as* a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I *am* the Lord. <sup>17</sup> ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. <sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the Lord.