

## Pride and Prejudice James 2:1-13

**Introduction:** Sometimes we make assumptions that are wrong because we do not look at all the detail.

Theme of James 2:1-13: **If you have real saving faith, you will treat people with *impartiality* and love.**

**Faith and partiality do not mix.** Vs.1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

**Two fundamental reasons why God hates favouritism.**

1. All men are created by God.
2. Christ died for the sins of all mankind making every person infinitely valuable.

**A practical illustration of how favouritism works in a church. Vs. 2-4**

1. **First mistake: He didn't look beyond the superficial to the heart.**
2. **Second mistake: He didn't look beyond the material to the spiritual.**
3. **Third mistake: He didn't look beyond the temporal to the eternal.**

**Obey three godly rules to avoid partiality.**

1. **Obey the "royal law" vs. 8** If you really fulfill the **royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
2. **Obey the "law of liberty" vs. 12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.
3. **Obey the law of mercy. Vs. 13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Conclusion: Seven golden guidelines to avoid sin of partiality**

1. Let God set your standard, not how you were raised.
2. Acknowledge that partiality is a sin, it's wrong. Confess it to God.
3. Look deeper to find what is in someone's heart.
4. Treat everyone with love as God loved you.
5. You will find it easier to love others as you love yourself when you put yourself in their shoes.
6. Be merciful to those who fall because you will be judged with the same measure you use on others.
7. Make room for people with problems and you will make room for yourself.