

All Persons
James 2:8-10
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how you must be one who respects and treats all mankind equally.

- Intro:
1. We all like to be treated fairly and like everyone else.
 2. Isn't there advantages to being a person who respects everyone?
 3. What does the Bible say about being a respecter of persons?

I. A Respector of Persons cannot be a Christian.

- A. A respecter of persons is contrary to everything Jesus stood for (**John 7:24**).
1. Jesus didn't treat people differently because of their occupation (**Matt 4:18-19**).
 2. He did not show partiality for people because of their social standing (**Matt 9:10**).
 3. Christ viewed everyone the same no matter their race (**John 4:9**).
 4. Christ treated people the same no matter their past sins (Example – Thief on the Cross).
 5. Christ loved all, and died for all (**John 3:16** – “whoever believes”).
- B. Sin of partiality – How would you like it?
1. How would you like it if you were treated differently because you don't have a lot of money (**Matt 12:43**)?
 2. How would you feel if your treated differently because of the sinful life you lead-in the past (**Ps 103:12**), God has forgiven them of sins-shouldn't we as well!
 3. How would you like it if you were treated differently because of your race (**John 4:9**)?
 4. How would you like it if you were treated differently for any reason – the only godly reason a person is to be treated differently is if they have been disfellowshipped (**Matt 18:17**).

II. Problems of being a Respector of Persons.

- A. Treating others differently can be seen as acceptable by others (**Heb 4:11**).
1. When others see us treating people differently it can become a pattern others may follow.
 2. Would you want to be avoided while others are having great fellowship?
- B. Treating people differently is a sin – thus it requires repentance (**2 Cor 7:9-10**).
1. Make no mistake being a respecter of persons is sin- and what is the cure for sin?
 2. Repentance means making a change – if you are guilty of such sin then you must change for the benefit of our brothers & sisters in Christ and for the sake of your own soul.
- C. Practicing respect for all persons means making changes.
1. Are you willing to make changes? (where you sit, who you eat with, who you call on the phone?) – These are things for ALL to think about.
 2. These may seem small or even silly but things such as these can make big differences and make others feel better about their fellowship with the saints.

III. The advantages of the Lord's church not being a respecter of persons.

A. Where there is no respecter of persons there is unity –visible unity.

1. There is nothing quite like the church being united (**Ps 133:1**).
2. Not only does unity please the Lord, it also is an environment for encouragement and growth for the saints themselves (**Heb 10:24**).

B. When there is no partiality being shown towards others we become more effective workers in the community.

1. When partiality is shown towards others we become ineffective workers in the field for God, would you listen to someone who treats others differently?
2. Peter showed partiality and it became known and hurt his influence for God (**Gal 2:11-14**).

Conc: 1. Are we showing partiality to others-for any reason?

2. If so, are we willing to do what it takes to change, so that we can be effective as a congregation and as individuals for the cause of Christ?
3. Full Invitation