

Problem:

“nobody has it all together -including the family in front of you”
but we love to look like it and we love those who do
we tend to look on the outside - to judge according to our standards rather than God’s

Israel wanted a king to look like the world - 1 Sam 8:19-22

-> God gave them what they wanted 1 Sam 9:1-2

-> a man who feared men -> 1 Sam 15:24-35

-> God has a different standard -> 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7

we are to reflect that standard - but too often we do not - the church is often the most homogeneous, most segregated place on the planet. we tend to value in others what we value in ourselves. Therefore - the basis of our fellowship is like a mirror showing us our values. What will we look like if the thing we have in common really is mercy and grace?

Text**Show no partiality**

James 2:1 ¶ My brothers, **show no partiality** as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

James 2:2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,

James 2:3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,”

James 2:4 have you not then made **distinctions** among yourselves **and become judges with evil thoughts?**

doers of the Word - James 1:25 - Matt 18:21-35; Luke 7:36-50

->being a doer of the Word means reflecting in our fellowship the fact that salvation not status seeking is really the thing we have in common. the fellowship we offer indicates the fellowship we have.

Because God shows no partiality

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

James 2:6 But **you have dishonored the poor man.** Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?

James 2:7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

God shows no partiality -Deut 7:6-8; 9:4-5; 10:17-19 -with Israel; Titus 3:2-5 with us; Rom 2:11-12; 6:3-11 entry point is death; acts 10:34 -truly i understand

->the reason we are to reflect this lack of partiality is because God is like that. He has chosen to give grace to all types of people - when we play favorites we are putting ourselves above God and His standards.

In Judgment

James 2:8 ¶ If (since) you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” **you are doing well.**

James 2:9 **But** if (since) **you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.**

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point **has become accountable for all of it.**

James 2:11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, **you have become a transgressor of the law.**

you judge and will be judged by the same judgment - Romans 2:1-11 - the law

Matt 7:1-5; (condemnation)

-> *We show we are condemned when we fail to treat others the way we wanted to be treated. who do we want standing on the scale - if we condemn others based on us then we put ourselves on the scale and if we are on the scale then Christ is not and we show we are not dealing with grace.*

Or In Mercy

James 2:12 So speak (James 1:26) and so act (1:27) as those who are to be **judged** under the law of liberty. (set free from sin and given a new nature free to love to have mercy etc.)

James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

*law of liberty...Gal 3:10-13; Rom 8:1-4 redeemed by Christ
new commandment - 1 John 2:7-10*

->*we have been set free by grace/mercy, we are to love others not the way we want to be loved (royal law) but the way we have been loved by God (law of liberty).*

Implication:

Jn 15:12

we show we are saved when we treat others the way God has treated us

Application:

2 Cor 5:16-17 -

see everyone through the eyes of Christ

Main Idea:

God has established the local church to baffle the world with a people united not by status or social situation but by salvation

Implication:

- We are either a fellowship marked by mercy or we are not a fellowship at all.

Application:

do we need to dress up to be accepted? do we need others to dress up before we welcome them? to dress down? to get younger? to get older?

I want our church to be filled with rich popular beautiful people and I want our church to be filled with disabled, sick, ugly and despised people - i want our church to baffle the world - to display a people having salvation in common

Action. Reach out to someone totally different than you in the church and out of the church for evangelism. open up a spot in your home for thanksgiving -

Thanksgiving on Facebook - put down if you have room and sign up if you need a place to go.

Read and discuss:

in reach:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/parse/2010/august/down-with-homogeneous-unit-principle.html?paging=off>

out reach:

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/does-your-church-have-enough-outcasts>

<http://kylekennicott.wordpress.com/2014/07/09/show-no-partiality/>