

A WARNING ABOUT BEING A RESPECTER OF PERSONS
6-4-17

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

James 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

James 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

James 2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the **royal law** according to the scripture, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:**

James 2:9 But if ye have **respect to persons**, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

I. WHAT IS IT TO BE A RESPECTOR OF PERSONS:

The Greek word according to Longs:

4382► *prosopolepsia, pros-o-pol-ape-see'-ah; from 4381; partiality, i.e. favoritism:-respect of persons.*

----- **Dictionary Trace** -----

4381► *prosopoleptes, pros-o-pol-ape'-tace; from 4383 and 2983; an acceptor of a face (individual), i.e. (spec.) one exhibiting partiality:-respector of persons.*

1. To be a respector of persons is to have partiality of persons, because of personal advantage or gain:

For instance you may think that you would have more to gain from a rich person than a poor person so James says,

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

James 2:4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

- People treat you different if they think you have money.
- People treat you different when you drive a nice car.
- People treat you different when you dress a certain way.

OUGHT NOT TO BE WITH US,

We ought not to judge a persons worth by the material wealth they have.

2. *To be a respecter of persons is to judge goodness or lack of goodness of a person on the basis of race, or where they are from, etc. Wrong.*

Sometimes more people from a certain area tend to have a certain character flaw but it doesn't go without saying and it is not always an iron clad law.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

A lot of people like to pigeonhole people as being bad because of certain things.

Take for instance it is a fact that there are more blacks in prison than whites. The reason is not because of their skin, it probably has more to do to their family upbringing.

MORE BLACKS HAVE NEVER KNOWN THEIR FATHERS. THIS IS A CARRY OVER FROM THE DAYS OF SLAVERY WHEN MANY A PLANTATION OWNER WOULD SEPARATE FAMILIES AND SELL OFF HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN FOR PROFIT.

The first commandment with promise is:

Honor Your Father And Mother That It May Be Well With You.
Why? Slave days, forced breeding.

Also today our welfare system rewards woman to remain in poverty, and a welfare system that encourages promiscuity and single mothers.

It is because of this handicap that there are more blacks in prison. It has nothing to do with skin or color.

So it is not a matter of color or race it is a matter of Spirit and individual desire, and character.

God is no respecter of persons.

Had an evangelist come through our church (Brother Goodge), who adopted two black children, and the church he was going to down south was against having black people in the church. This church actually voted that they would be a segregated congregation.

THIS IS SIN! DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE CAN CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS AND TAKE THIS KIND OF STAND.

Thing is they have to believe that God is a respecter of persons.
They also would have to say that a person's color determines their character.

Truth is if a person that is black comes into the assembly making trouble I will deal with him as a trouble maker not because he is black but because of what he does, and if he is white we need to deal with him the same way, or whatever nationality etc.

3. *To be a respecter of persons is to judge a person solely on how they treat you and not to notice how they treat others.*

Subtle sin:

Many a person has become a respecter of person on this point:

Just because a person treats you well and does nice things for you does not mean they are good people.

MOST PEOPLE ARE RESPECTERS OF PERSONS ON THIS BASIS:

How does the average person judge a person's character?

We judge them on the basis of how they treat us:

They may steal from others.

They may hurt others.

They may be unkind to others.

They may slight others.

They may be nasty to others.

You say They are kind to me.

They treat me good.

They never have been offensive to me.

They never have treated me wrong.

They are always there for me.

They have been a great help to me.

IN THIS YOU ARE A RESPECTOR OF PERSONS:

It is no different than what James warned about:

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James 2:3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

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James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

I became wise to this a while back:

Certain people in the Church treated me great but slighted others, did not notice how they treated others. I soon learned people may treat me one way and others another way.

So it is with all of us in this way we tend to be respector of persons.

If certain people hurt others, are offensive to others, and treat others rudely but they seem to not be that way with you, be careful you don't become a respector of persons:

THIS SHOULD BE A WARNING SIGNAL THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH A PERSON:

II. HOW CAN WE DISCERN A PERSON OF QUESTIONABLE CHARACTER WITHOUT BEING A RESPECTER OF PERSONS?

It is not wrong to use discernment when dealing with persons. We should judge a person on the bases of character and not on the bases of the things mentioned above.

SOME SURE SIGNS THAT A PERSON HAS A SERIOUS FLAW IN THEIR CHARACTER.

1. LOOK AT HOW THEY TREAT THEIR PARENTS:

A. YOUNG PEOPLE.

Ephesians 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;
Ephesians 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

B. OLDER PEOPLE.

Matthew 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

Matthew 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

Matthew 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Matthew 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2. LOOK AT HOW THEY RESPONDED TO THEIR MARITAL COVENANT:

Malachi 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

3. LOOK AT HOW THEY DEAL WITH LOVED ONES AND PEOPLE THAT SHOULD BE CLOSE TO THEM:

I Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

These same people are not going to be true to a church.

How many people have mistreated their mother? Fellow puts grandmother in a nursing home and takes her house.

4. LOOK AT HOW THEY RESPECT GOD'S MAN.

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Deuteronomy 12:19 Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

How do we know whether a person loves God?
We can tell by the way they treat God's messenger.

Some people would be happy to see God's servant living in poverty.

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Petty offenses.
Petty grievances.

Petty things against God's house and man.

These are a sign that there is something wrong:

III. HOW WE SHOULD REACT TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT OF GOOD CHARACTER:

1. PRAY FOR THEM TO REPENT WHILE KEEPING A CERTAIN DISTANCE FROM THEM:

Jude 1:22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

Jude 1:23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

When a girl allows herself to like a fellow with these character flaws she is asking for trouble.

Marriage problems: First thing a young person needs to do is look at that potential girlfriend or boyfriend's family.

2. REMEMBER THAT WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND, AND DON'T THINK THAT GIVEN THE RIGHT OR WRONG OPPORTUNITY THAT SO CALLED FRIEND WOULDN'T TURN ON YOU.

Proverbs 29:24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Proverbs 1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Proverbs 1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Proverbs 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

Proverbs 1:16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

Proverbs 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

Proverbs 1:18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Proverbs 1:19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

3. DON'T JUDGE WITH PARTIALITY, JUDGE WITH PROPER JUDGMENT:

Just Because that person benefits you, you think they are ok.

They are not...

If they are hurting others, they would hurt you also.

Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

**IV. GREATEST REASON WE SHOULD NOT BE RESPECTER OF PERSONS:
GOD IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS:**

If we do right we will be blessed of God.

If we do wrong we will not receive the smile of God.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

II Chronicles 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Romans 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

God does not make exceptions, we all must be saved.

We all must come to Him in humility.

We must all repent.

One way of salvation, through His Son Jesus Christ.

One Lord.

We talk about how bad it was that we enslaved people in this country and it was wrong. Southern Baptist made an official statement recanting their position on slavery during the civil war days.

Days of slavery, for a while people were afraid that the blacks would revolt.

2 blacks for every one white.

One thing kept the riots back:

Itinerant preachers, like Peter Cartwright, Bishop Asbury, believed that the best way to fight slavery and liberate the slaves was to preach the gospel to them.

So while there were many black men who were considered inferior to the whites in the days of slave labor, God smiled on these black people and there were many more that were saved than the whites.

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.

Doesn't look at how rich or poor you are.

Doesn't take note of how handsome or comely you are.

Doesn't judge you on the basis of ethnic superiority.

GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART, IT nDOESN'T MATTER BACKGROUND, OR LACK OF UPBRINGING IF YOU GIVE HIM YOUR HEART.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Application:

God is no respecter of persons, you can be saved.

You can be blessed if you do right.

When we do what He says we receive blessings, when we violate His commands things go wrong for us, WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH.