

# James Session 4 / THE SIN OF PARTIALITY / James 2:1-13

## INTRODUCTION

### Preferring the Wealthy over the Poor (2:1-4)

What are some reasons why people and churches show partiality to the rich? Is James suggesting that we should show partiality to the poor? (Explain your answer.) What should we do instead of showing partiality? Read Ephesians 4:1–3 and 1 Peter 3:8. How do Paul and Peter help us understand this issue more fully?

### Three Reasons Why Showing Partiality Is Ungodly (2:5-11)

#### 1. It is opposed to God's character. (2:5)

How have you seen in your own life that wealth, health, or other strengths lead you to rely on those things rather than on God? How have weaknesses lead you to humbly lean on God?

#### 2. It puts Christians in the position of acting like the world. (2:6-7)

How have you seen the world show preference to the wealthy and powerful? Do you have any examples you can share of this happening in a church? Why is showing partiality so detrimental to our gospel witness?

**3. It is a violation of our King's law. (2:8-11)**

Why did James choose the command "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" as the summary of the point he is making? Why is it true that breaking one commandment of the law makes a person accountable for the whole law?

**Implications SO... (2:12-13)**

1. Speak and act as those who are to be judged.
2. Live according to the Law of Liberty
3. Remember that mercy triumphs over judgment.

What additional thoughts, principles, or points of application do you have from this passage?