

A TIME TO GROW UP

"The sin of Prejudice"

James 2:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. This Growing up to be like Jesus is pretty rough!!!

a) *1 Peter 3:15*

b) *John 14:17*

1) God intends for us to **PROGRESS** in our faith from **INFANCY** to **MATURITY**, and from Spiritual defeat to maturity.

2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** This is NOT the Second Blessing or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to Salvation.

a) *1 Corinthians 12:13*

b) *Ephesians 4:4-5*

3. **James 2:1**

a) "*My brothers, show no partiality*"

1) We call it **Racism**

a. Is prejudice against someone's skin color.

2) We call it **Classism**

a. Is prejudice against someone's economic status.

3) We call it **Culturalism**

a. Is prejudice against someone's manner of life.

4. *John 8:31-34*

5. **James 1:27**

6. *Mark 12:41-44*

7. **John 4:7-30**

8. Jesus looked right past her obvious problem and dealt with her as a person worth His time.

a) *Matthew 11:16-19*

THREE THINGS WE MUST SEE ABOUT BEING PREJUDICE TOWARD PEOPLE

I. THE SIN OF PREJUDICE (Partiality)

1. Vs 1

2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Faith in Jesus and being Prejudice against others is incompatible.

A. THE STORY

1. Vs 2-3

- a) The first guy - Rich and well dressed.
- b) The second guy - Poor and right off the street, poorly dressed.

2. **QUESTION:** Who made the value judgment?

B. THE SIN

1. Vs 4

- a) *"have you not then made distinctions"*

2. Vs 4

- a) *"among yourselves"*

3. Discrimination over economic clout is bad enough.

- a) But the real sin was the message sent to the church.

II. THE IGNORANCE OF PREJUDICE

A. PREJUDICE IGNORES SPIRITUAL TRUTH

1. Vs 5-6

2. The sin of Prejudice reveals spiritual ignorance.

a) Vs 5

1) *"Listen"* - pay attention!!!

2) *"chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith"*

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The poor learn to have a dependency on God many will never have.

4. For many **RICH PEOPLE** they may be saved but their experience with God is **SHALLOW**.

B. PREJUDICE IGNORES FAITH

1. Vs 5

- a) *"To be rich in faith"*

2. It is spiritual ignorance to practice partiality against the naturally poor.
 - a) Because you are delivering a message that they are of NO VALUE TO GOD.
3. **PROSPERITY THEOLOGY** - teaches people to gauge their spirituality by the level of their wealth.
4. **Hebrews 11:37**
 - a) The "Look at me crowd" makes God sick.

C. PREJUDICE IGNORES GOD'S PLAN

1. **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**
2. Jesus loves Rich people to.
 - a) **Matthew 19:24**
3. @ The Judgment Seat of Christ we'll be glad we treated people with justice.
 - a) Racially, Economically, Culturally

D. PREJUDICE IGNORES SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. Vs 6-7
2. The Story of history is the rich and powerful oppressing the poor, and weak.

III. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM

1. Is to be like Jesus.
2. **James 1:22-25**
3. **Acts 10:34-35**
 - a) Since God is not partial, neither should we be.

A. THE ROYAL LAW OF LOVE

1. Vs 8
2. **Matthew 22:37-40**
 - a) Loving or neighbor as ourselves.

3. When we get our VERTICAL love right, our HORIZONTAL love will be right.

4. 1 John 4:20

5. DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S CALLED THE ROYAL LAW?

a) Because it rules all the others.

6. Romans 13.10

B. PARTIALITY IS SIN

1. Vs 9

2. SPIRITUALITY - Is to call sin what it is.

3. Vs 10-12

a) Guilty in one point guilty of all.

C. BE MERCIFUL

1. Vs 13

2. **WOW!!!** - Every individual who enters our church should be entering an environment of MERCY.

3. **HUGE** - If we have no MERCY then at the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST expect NO MERCY.

4. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15