

No Distinctions of Superiority - James 2

September 14, 2017

James 2:1-9 ESV

- 1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
- 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,
- 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,"
- 4 have you not then made distinctions (*diakrinō* - to separate, discriminate, to prefer, to withdraw from one) among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

NASB "*have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?*"

- 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?
- 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?
- 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?
- 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
- 9 But if you show partiality (*prosōpolēmpτεō* - to have respect of persons, the external condition of man, to discriminate), you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Matthew 23:1-12 ESV

- 1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
- 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat (*kathedra* - used of the exalted seat occupied by men of eminent rank or influence),
- 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.
- 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.
- 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,
- 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues
- 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.
- 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.
- 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.
- 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.
- 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.
- 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 18:18-19 ESV

18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."

Matthew 20:20-28 ESV

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."

23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 5:1-5 ESV

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight (*some manuscripts omit / episkopeo - to inspect, care for, look after carefully / from skopeo - fix one's eyes upon, direct one's attention to*), **not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;**

3 **not domineering over** (*katakryrieuō - to bring under one's power, hold in subjection, exercise lordship over, be master of*) those in your charge, but being examples (*typos - example, pattern, figure*) **to the flock.**

4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Hebrews 8:7-11 ESV

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

1 John 2:24-27 ESV

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he made to us--eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie--just as it has taught you, abide in him.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,

4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

"In October 1858 he had his first episode of incapacitating illness since coming to London. Having been absent from his pulpit for three Sundays, when he returned he preached on 1 Peter 1:6: "Wherein ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." In the sermon entitled, "The Christian's Heaviness and Rejoicing," Spurgeon said that during his illness, when "my spirits were sunken so low that I could weep by the hour like a child, and yet I knew not what I wept for..."

--Christian History, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Issue 29

"Luther was amused he could drain a mug of wine through the Lord's Prayer while a friend could not get beyond the Ten Commandments."

--Christian History, Luther Leads the Way, Issue 115

1 John 1:5-8 ESV

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.