

“The Sin of Snobbery”

James 2:1-13

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I. Introduction

- A. The New English Bible states, “My brothers believing as you do in our Lord Jesus Christ, who reigns in glory, you must never show snobbery.”
 - 1. One of the best tests of the reality and maturity of your Christianity is how you treat people
 - 2. Jesus said, “By this shall all men...”
 - 3. We have discovered in our study of James that the mature Christian is:
 - a) Joyful in trials (1:1-12)
 - b) Triumphant in temptations (1:13-18)
 - c) Practices the Word (1:19-27)
 - d) Does not show respect of persons, partiality, or snobbery
 - 4. It was happening in James’ day
 - 5. Sadly, it is still common in our day
 - 6. Remember, God looks at the heart

II. The Command to Stop Snobbery (James 2:1)

- A. It’s an imperative
 - 1. Literally “stop having respect of persons”
 - 2. What is it?
 - a) It’s showing favor to someone because of their outward appearance
 - b) God looks at the heart
 - 3. James says, “it is inconsistent with faith in our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 1)
 - 4. Jesus didn’t show respect of persons
 - a) Illustration- The poor widow who gave her mite
 - b) The sinful Samaritan woman (John 4)
 - c) The rich Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19)
 - 5. We need to see others through Jesus’ eyes
 - a) Not a Christian- “Christ died for them”
 - b) Christians- “Christ lives in them”

III. The Illustration of Snobbery (James 2:2-4)

- A. “For if...” (v. 2)
 - 1. It’s most likely a hypothetical case
 - 2. The application (v. 4)
 - a) Illustration- In church history
 - 1) In 18th-century England
 - 2) 100 years later- William Booth and the Salvation Army
 - 3) 60’s and early 70’s- the Jesus Movement
 - b) Illustration- Women trying to join a church

3. “Rich and poor have this is common, the Lord is the maker of them all” (Proverbs 22:2).

IV. The Reasons to Stop Showing Snobbery (James 2:5-13)

- A. A theological reason (v. 5)
 1. It’s the grace of God
 2. It’s the basis of God’s choice
 - a) Illustration- (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)
 - b) “*A class church is not a church that magnifies the grace of God.*” – Warren Wiersbe
- B. A logical reason (vv. 6-7)
 1. “They exploit you” (v. 6)
 2. “They blaspheme you” (v. 7)
- C. A Biblical reason (vv. 8-13)
 1. Fulfilling the royal law (vv. 8-11)
 - a) Why is it the royal law?
 - 1) It comes from God
 - 2) It controls all other laws
 - a. Illustration- Someone asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was
 - b. The Good Samaritan
 - c. We love our neighbor if we get to pick the neighbor
 - d. Love God
 - e. Love your neighbor as yourself
 - f. Snobbery is sin!
 2. We will face future judgment (vv. 12-13)
 - a) It’s not a judgment for our sin
 - b) It’s a future judgment for our service
 - c) “Speak ye” (our words) (v. 12)
 - d) “So do” (our works) (v. 12)
 - e) “As they that shall be judged” (v. 12)
 - 1) It’s the Bema seat
 - 2) (1 Corinthians 3)
 - 3) (2 Corinthians 5)
 - f) As Christians, we will give an account to God
 - 1) How do you treat others?
 - 2) The same way God treats you
 - g) Do you show others mercy?
 - 1) Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful...” (Matthew 5:7)
 - 2) There’s no place for snobbery in the life of a Christian

V. Conclusion

- A. If you’re not a Christian, you will be judged for your sin
 1. You can be saved and forgiven
 2. Jesus died for your sins on the cross
 3. You must receive Him today