

JAMES

Lesson 11: Respect of Persons (James 2:1-9)

24 January 2020

James chapter 2 begins with some admonishments to Christian brethren concerning the treatment of people who attend your church assembly. The Bible truths gleaned from these nine verses are as follows:

1. All men are not created equal. Some are rich; some are poor. Some are successful; some are not.
2. Saved brethren in any church assembly will include rich brethren and poor brethren.
 - a. Notice that being saved in Christ does not guarantee earthly riches.
3. We are to treat all the brethren with the same love and respect (vs 8), whether rich or poor.
4. You must deal with people according to their different circumstances (weaknesses and strengths/sins not repented of, fruitfulness, holiness, etc.), but our love should be the same for every believer.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO "RESPECT OF PERSONS:"

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

- 1) Material wealth and social standing are not to be considered in matters of judgment between two parties. Every man is to be treated with equal respect and fairness in matters of law.
- 2) **"Don't be afraid of the face of man"** means don't let the bigshots and rich men influence your decisions because you fear you may lose their support or approval. Rich and powerful men should have no advantage over the poor and beggarly man in the judgment of legal matters.

Deuteronomy 16:18-19

- 1) Don't wrest judgment because you favor one man over another.
- 2) Don't respect persons. Do what is right according to the facts.
- 3) Do not take a gift that is intended to sway your decisions and loyalties.

2 Samuel 14:14

Everyone dies; there's no escaping that appointment. Good men and bad men die. God does not allow any man to escape death out of respect or special favor. Likewise, God does not prevent any repentant sinner from going to Heaven.

Proverbs 24:23-25

When you give your approval to a wicked man, the people will hate you.

When you rightly rebuke a wicked man, you'll enjoy the blessings of the people.

This is a principle you need to apply to your children. Children do wrong. Don't always approve of everything your kids do or assume that they can do no wrong.

Proverbs 28:21

Don't put so much respect in a person that you think they can do no wrong. All men are sinners and are capable of transgression. God's word is the final authority, not any man. You can follow a man who is following the Lord, but don't blindly follow any man.

2 Chronicles 19:7 God is not a respecter of persons. Our tithes and sacrifices and religious practices will not persuade God to let us in Heaven. He provided the way (Jesus Christ); we cannot go any other way.

Ephesians 6:9 This is a lesson for masters and can be applied to bosses, supervisors, CEO's, managers, military officers, etc. Treat your subordinates with the same love and kindness that your Master in Heaven has shown you. You may be above somebody in rank or position, but the Lord is far above you, and He treats you fairly.

Romans 2:9-11 God treats everyone the same based on their actions, not their heritage. We are to follow the Lord's example and treat all races fairly and honestly.

Colossians 3:25 When it comes to judgment, there will be no favoritism or exceptions.

1 Peter 1:17 If you call on the Father (Rom 10:13), He will hear and judge and forgive without respect of persons. Your past character and lifestyle is not a factor. When you come to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ, He will save you regardless of your past.

Acts 10:34-35 Peter learned that God's salvation was for all men, not just the Jew.

Galatians 2:1-7 Paul spoke "privately to them which were of reputation" to straighten them out on some false teachings. He treated them with the respect they felt they deserved so that he could get a hearing with them. However, he reprimanded them the same as he would anybody; without respect of persons.

Luke 20:21 The chief priests were speaking flatteries to the Lord Jesus, but there is truth in what they said. Jesus had no respect of persons; He dealt with everyone properly and without partiality, which is the way of God. We should follow His example.

Job 34:17-20 Whether rich or poor, a prince or a beggar, every man needs to be shown that they are ungodly sinners who are going to die and go to Hell if they don't repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Everyone deserves a gospel presentation. Don't discriminate.

Genesis 4:4-5 It appears that God is favoring Abel over Cain.

Hebrews 11:4 This verse clarifies Genesis 4:4-5. God respected the gift, not the person. Cain had an equal opportunity to be accepted by God if he would bring the right offering.

Psalms 138:6 This verse does not contradict the established principle of respect of persons. The emphasis is on the actions of two men: one humbled himself, the other would not.
