

Pastor Bruce Henry // Sunday AM, October 23, 2016

In this passage we discover that discrimination in any form is an affront to God. Our prejudicial treatment of other people breaks God's commands and betrays His grace.

Preliminary Insights

- Mistakes are made when we judge quickly and on surface evidence.
- Looking at the heart is against our nature.
- People who are significant to God are often insignificant to others.

Insightful Principles

Discernment is essential ...

- When prolonged involvement is being considered (spouse, job, business partner, roommate, etc.).
- When there are fractures in the body of Christ (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- When leadership positions are being considered (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:22).
- When distinguishing truth from error (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 1 Jn. 4:1).

I. THE PRINCIPLE STATED. 2:1

Partiality is incompatible with the Christian faith.

II. THE PRINCIPLE ILLUSTRATED. 2:2-4

Partiality is insensitive to the church's calling.

The Setting. What would we do? (vs. 2)

The Response. Would our motive be less than pure? (vs. 3)

The Motive. Note what was done and why. (vs. 4)

III. THE PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED. 2:5-11

Partiality is inconsiderate of God's choices. (vs. 5)

Partiality is illogical, ignoring universal sin. (vs. 6-7)

Partiality is indifferent to Scripture. (vs. 8-11)

IV. THE PRINCIPLE APPLIED. 2:12-13

Partiality is ignorant of the future judgment.

A. Let Scripture, not heritage, be your standard.

B. Let love be your law.

C. Let mercy be your message.