

2:5-7
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12.) James 2:8-13
Love Discrimination Sin

2:14-17
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- Practical Christian living. Brings together our response to God and Christ-like relations towards others.
- 1:27, ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: 1.) to look after orphans and widows in their distress 2.) and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- 2:1, ¹ My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

1.) Be Loving (8-11)

a.) ⁸ Indeed, if you fulfill [PAI] the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, Love you will love [FAI] your neighbor as yourself, you are doing do [PAI] well.

- Le 19:9-18, 1.) ⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the resident alien; I am the Lord your God. 2.) ¹¹ “Do not steal. Do not act deceptively or lie to one another. ¹² Do not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God; I am the Lord. 3.) ¹³ “Do not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages due a hired worker must not remain with you until morning. 4.) ¹⁴ Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the Lord. 5.) ¹⁵ “Do not act unjustly when deciding a case. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly. 6.) ¹⁶ Do not go about spreading slander among your people; do not jeopardize your neighbor’s life; I am the Lord. 7.) ¹⁷ “Do not harbor hatred against your brother. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him. ¹⁸ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.
- Ro 13:8-9, 1.) ⁸ Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, 2.) Do not commit adultery; 3.) do not murder; 4.) do not steal; 5.) do not covet; and any other commandment, are summed up by this commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.

a.) Discrimination is Sinful (9)

b.) ⁹ If, however, you show favoritism [PAI], 1.) you commit [I] sin 2.) and are being convicted [] by the law as transgressors.

- Favoritism: partiality, bias, preference to one person over another, social class, wealth, color, language, clothing, actions, gender, ethnicity, tribe.

b.) Discrimination is a Great Sin (10) – Not a lesser evil, an affront to a holy God

¹⁰ For 1.) whoever keeps will keep [FAI] the entire law, 2.) and yet stumbles will stumble [FAI] at one point, is [RAI] guilty of breaking it all.

c.) Discrimination is a Sin that Damns (11) – God doesn't gloss over iniquity

¹¹ For 1.) he who said [, AAI] Do not commit adultery [,]AAS 2.) also said [, AA] Do not murder [,]AAS So if a.) you do not commit adultery [FAI], b.) but you murder [,], FAI you are [RAI] a lawbreaker.

- God's Character:
 - Ro 2:11, ¹¹ For there is no favoritism with God.
 - Ep 6:9, ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.
 - Co 3:25, ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.

• **Peter's bad example:**

- **Acts 10:34-35**, ³⁴ **Peter** began to speak: "Now I truly understand that **God doesn't show favoritism**, ³⁵ **but** in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **Ga 2:11-14**, ¹¹ But when **Cephas** came to Antioch, **I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned**. ¹² For he regularly ate with the Gentiles before certain men came from James. However, when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision party. ¹³ Then the rest of the Jews joined his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were **deviating from the truth of the gospel**, I told **Cephas** in front of everyone, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel Gentiles to live like Jews?"

• *"Penny Sparrow (fined R150 000 for calling black beach goers monkeys) and Vicki Momberg (2 year prison sentence for calling a black cop a kaffir) will face a terrifying future judgment. Racism, favouritism, partiality, discrimination is sin. And it's not in a lesser more forgiving category of sins in God's eyes. It's a damnable sin. There's no getting away from the fact that racists, elitists, classists, xenophobists, tribalists need to confess, repent and believe upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved."*

2.) Be Kind (12)

1.) ¹² **Speak** [_____], **MPA**

2.) **and act** [_____], **MPA**

as those who are to be [_____], **judged** [_____], **by** **the law of freedom**.

• *"While all man is in bondage to sin the Christian is free not to sin. In light of that freedom we will give an account."*

• **The example of Jesus:**

- **The Rich:** Joseph of Arimathea "rich man", Nicodemus "ruler of Israel", Zacchaeus "chief tax collector", Levi "tax collector." Jesus attended parties and dine with wealthy individuals (Lk 5:29-32; 7:36-39; 11:37; 14:1-2). Jesus accepted costly, luxurious perfume from Mary (12:1-3).

- **The Poor:**

- A strange city (no room in the inn), manger (feed trough), visited by shepherds (outcasts of society). Mary and Joseph could only offer two pigeons for Mary's purification.

- **Mt 8:20**, ²⁰ Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, **but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head**.

- He preached from borrowed boats, multiplied borrowed food, rode on a borrowed colt, and was buried in a borrowed tomb.

- John the Baptist was imprisoned, **Mt 11:2-3**, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" **Mt 11:4-6**, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ **The blind** receive their sight, **the lame** walk, those with **leprosy** are cleansed, **the deaf** hear, **the dead** are raised, and **the poor are told the good news**, ⁶ and blessed is **the one who isn't offended by me**."

- **Us: Mt 25:31-46**, ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then **he will sit on his glorious throne**. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and **he will separate them one from another**, just as a shepherd separates **the sheep** from **the goats**. ³³ He will put **the sheep** on his right and **the goats** on the left. The sheep are honored for caring for Jesus, Confused, **Mt 25:40**, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of **the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me**." The goats are equally confused, **Mt 25:45**, 'I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of **the least of these, you did not do for me**.'

3.) Be Merciful (13)

¹³ **For** **judgment** is without **mercy** to the one who has not shown [_____], **mercy**.
Mercy triumphs over [_____] **judgment**.

• *"Our sins may argue against us but praise be unto the Lord Jesus Christ, our Advocate, who argues for us so that mercy may triumph over judgment!"*

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