

Grace and Prejudice

James 2:1-13

- I. Prejudice is sin (James 2:1-7).
 - A. Main Point: Don't show favoritism (James 2:1-4).
 - Example: Showing special attention to rich visitors to church while disrespecting the poor visitor (2:2-3).
 - Its sin to "look down" on some people because we don't naturally like them (2:4).
 - B. Showing favoritism to the rich reveals that we don't think about people like God does (James 2:5-7).
 - It's often the poor God chooses for spiritual privilege while we look down on them (2:5-6a).
 - It's often the rich who persecute Christians and slander Christ (2:6b, 7b).

- II. Only grace cures prejudice (James 2:8-13).
 - A. "Doers of God's word" (see 1:22) show grace to all instead of favoritism for some (James 2:8-11).
 - We show that we understand Christ's "Royal Law" of love when we refuse to show favoritism (2:8).
 - We are law-breakers if we show favoritism, because adultery, murder and favoritism all violate God's word (2:9-11).
 - B. God will judge believers someday based on how they showed grace to others (James 2:12-13).
 - Someday Christ will judge us based on the Law of Liberty (2:12). [Judgment Seat of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15]
 - At our "judgment" God evaluates our mercy toward others (2:13).