

“Prejudice is Sin”

James 2: 1-13

“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder."

If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!” (James 2:1-13).

“Hands on Christianity”

“Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ”

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17)

“Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ”

fan the flames of faith

encourage them to once again to be warmed
by God’s Word

be shaped and fashioned into the
creation God intended

allow His Spirit to hone and help us shine
in the image of Christ

Merriam-Webster dictionary

preconceived judgment

adverse opinion

formed without just grounds

an irrational attitude of hostility

Prejudice is sinful and contrary to God's law

Prejudicial thinking put into action is damaging to others and tears apart relationships

violate the “royal law”

“Love your neighbor as yourself. As ambassadors of the King of Grace, we tolerate no prejudice and promote an unconditional sharing of God's love for all people.”

Prejudice = Racial differences

economic status

culture

education

age

career choice

gender

political
affiliation

disabilities

“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:1-4)

“Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?” (James 2:5)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3)

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

Fiorello LaGuardia, mayor of New York City

“hands on” kind of a mayor

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”

(Martin Luther King)

“Do you think you have any prejudices?”

How do we get beyond these
prejudices?

How do we turn this around?

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right”
(Acts 10:34-35)

God sees us as.....

A sinner in need of a Savior

One who is lost in need of direction

One without hope in need of a future

One who fears death in need of Eternal Life

“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom”
(James 2:12)

At Lord of Life

Interfaith Hospitality

Mission trips to southeast Ohio

Reaching out to the Native Americans in
Montana

**A turn the world
upside down kind of
love**

A love modeled after Jesus

Who loved unconditionally

Who put aside all prejudices

Who are moved people to action