

Pride and Prejudice

Test #4: The Test of Impartial Love (James 2:1-13)

How often do we judge people by externals, and determine who we will pay attention to or talk to at church based on what will benefit us rather than what the more needy and lonely among us might benefit from?

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Test #4 The Test of Impartial Love (2:1-13)

- Luke 18:9
- Luke 18:11-13
- James 1:26-27
- Luke 11:42

1. The Instruction Against Christian Prejudice (v 1)

It's important we start here, lest we become those who pray *"God, I thank thee that I am not like the Pharisee over here ..."*

2. The Illustration of Christian Prejudice (v 2-4)

Hendriksen wrote: "Instead of looking at the incomparable glory of the Lord, they are staring at the splendor of a gold ring and fine clothes. Instead of honoring Jesus Christ, they are paying respect to a rich man and despising a poor man. And instead of accepting persons on the basis of faith in Christ, they are showing favoritism based on appearance and status..."

3. The Inconsistency of Christian Prejudice (v 5-9)

- The admonition (v 5-7)
- The additional instruction (v 8-9)
- The application of the Law (v 10-13)

Jane Austen wrote this prayer:

"Look with mercy on the sins we have this day committed and in mercy make us feel them deeply, that our repentance may be sincere and our resolution steadfast of endeavoring against the commission of such in future. Teach us to understand the sinfulness of our own hearts, and bring to our knowledge every fault of temper and every evil habit in which we have indulged to the discomfort of our fellow-creatures, and the danger of our own souls... Have we thought irreverently of thee, have we disobeyed thy commandments, have we neglected any known duty, or willingly given pain to any human being? Incline us to ask our hearts these questions oh! God, and save us from deceiving ourselves by pride or vanity."