

Respect of Persons

Introduction:

- A. Tell about the brother in Arizona who thought Southerners were terrible for being prejudiced against black people while he himself was prejudiced against Indians.
- B. Respect of persons is a problem common to all societies. - James 2:1
- C. What should be my attitude toward people of different fleshly backgrounds?

I. God is no respecter of persons. - Romans 2:11

- A. definition: ***partiality**, the fault of one who when called on to requite or give judgment has respect to the outward circumstances of men and not to their intrinsic merits, and so prefers, as the more worthy, one who is rich, high-born, or powerful, to another who is destitute of such gifts* Thayer. 551).

B. The New Testament applies this principle to:

1. race/ethnic/national differences - Acts 10:34-35
2. social differences - Galatians 3:28
3. different sexes - Ibid
4. economic differences - James 2:5

II. Thus, God:

- A. is the God of all. - Romans 3:29
- B. holds all accountable for their sins. - Romans 2:12
- C. loves all. - John 3:16
- D. wants all to be saved. - 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- E. sent His Son to die for all. - 1 John 2:2
- F. sends the gospel to all. - Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16
- G. Shall judge all by the same standard. - Romans 2:4-11,16

III. We must be like God. - Ephesians 4:22-24; Acts 11:9

IV. Thus, we must:

- A. Take the gospel to all. - Mark 16:15
- B. Receive all faithful brethren all nations, races and tongues. - Romans 15:7
 1. into spiritual fellowship. - James 2:1-9
 2. into social association. - Acts 11:2-3

Conclusion:

- A. If Saul of Tarsus, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, could become the Apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, we can learn to accept others of different backgrounds.
- B. The sin of respect of persons will cause one to be lost. - James 2:9-10
- C. Wherefore, "receive ye one another."