“Judges with Evil Motives”

I. The Christian church is comprised of an astoundingly collection of people.

   A. In Christ this diverse collection of people find a commonness - a ___________. And we, the church, will only be strong as we ___________ the greater One who unites us.

   1. Therefore, we must ___________ the unity of the Spirit, ___________ against those things that would destroy it.

   a. One such destroyer of unity is ___________ (partiality).

   James 2:1-4

I. James continues to express what ___________ and ___________ religion is and looks like.

   A. Pure and undefiled faith held in our glorious Lord and Savior is ___________ of personal favoritism.

   1. Believer, this faith that has been ___________ us is a precious ___________ that is in the glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

      a. This is a precious faith that must be ___________ in recognition of the glory of our Lord!

      b. Since our faith is held in the Glorious One, Christ Jesus, we ___________ ________ ________ it by having an attitude of personal favoritism.

   B. Personal favoritism is the showing of favor based upon ___________ appearances.

      1. “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the ___________ at the ___________.”

         a. ________ is impartial. (2 Chron 19:7)

         b. ________ is impartial. (Luke 20:21)

         c. ________ are instructed to be impartial. (Deut 10:17-19)

   2. Beloved church, the favoritism that is motivated from a
superficial judgement of the outward appearance of a man rather than the heart of the man is not in keeping with our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, personal favoritism is __________ and shows our religion to be __________, impure, and defiled!

C. James gave us a __________ illustration that exemplifies the kind of personal favoritism he is condemning.

1. Showing preferential treatment to a person simply because they appear to be wealthy while degrading a person simply because they appear to be poor reveals a faith that __________ the glory of Christ Jesus.

2. The indictment. “If you make such ungodly distinctions among those who are outside the brotherhood of believers, isn’t it also true that you are guilty of doing the among yourselves - among the brotherhood of believers - esteeming some of the brethren because of their outward appearance while disdaining others simply because of their outward appearance?

   a. Such personal favoritism within the church is a __________ of God’s __________ character.

D. James identifies the __________ of personal favoritism.

   1. Selfish ______ is the motivation! Personal favoritism is the result of evil motives.

Dear church, we are a __________ people. A people whose skin is toned differently - a people who differ financially - a people who are so diverse in so many ways, yet we have but _______ _______ because we have but one Savior. He is Jesus Christ, the __________ One!

Let us live a __________ _______ preserving the unity of the Spirit, free from sinful personal favoritism and that, to the glory of God!

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