

## **A RESPECTER OF PERSONS** **Matthew 22:35-39**

### **SHOWING PARTIALITY**

**Acts 10:34-35** It took a while for the vision that Peter was given to sink in, but when Peter got to the home of Cornelius and heard that Cornelius had been given a vision Peter finally got the message.

**Acts 11:1-3** Many of Peter's fellow Jews, including the Apostles, were not happy with Peter being with the Gentiles. The word 'contended' means (to strive against, to struggle in opposition). They wanted to hold him accountable and were angry at Peter for being with lower class people.

**Galatians 2:11-12** Even though Peter knew that he was not to hold the belief that the Gentiles were less loved by God and were not any lower class than the Jews he was ashamed to associate with them.

**James 2:8-9; Romans 2:10-11** God makes it clear in His word that He is not partial and does not show favoritism when dealing with people and He does not want us to do so either.

**James 2:1-4** These verses show us that the sinful human nature has never changed and that God knows that believers have always used the cloak of Christianity to take advantage of people.

**Acts 6:1** Here we find one of the early church's problem with partiality, prejudice, and discrimination based on nationality and language. Sometimes human nature gets in the way of true Christianity.

### **RECEIVING THE STRANGER**

**Leviticus 19:33-34** As we have learned from Paul the Apostle, the examples of the O. T. are to be carried into the N. T. church. Receiving strangers and new members should be with love and respect.

**Hebrews 13:2** Maybe God knew how the human nature in us would normally see the stranger or the new person and wanted us to be careful how we treated them.

**Matthew 25:34-37a, 40** Of course we realize the context of these verses is Tribulation, however, we certainly can apply these scriptures to current happenings and certainly understand that God expects us to act the same way in today's church age. The church must keep in mind that every visitor, every new member have reasons and issues why they have decided to visit our church. Every stranger, every visitor, and every new member have questions and needs that we should be trying to meet.

### **RECEIVING ONE ANOTHER**

**John 13:34-35** God expects the actions of Christians to be characterized by love, peace, joy, and other evidences that prove we are the children of God. Too often the church is not seen this way.

**I Peter 1:22; 4:8** One of the reasons we can be sure that God is the author of the bible is because in so many verses He uncovers our human nature and character. Here He warns about being 'unfeigned' (not phoney, or counterfeit), in our attempt to show spiritual love. He also admonishes us to not only have a Godly love for each other but to be 'fervent', (eager, boiling, hot) in our love for one another.

**Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13** Holding a grudge against another can sour much more than the attitude of the grudge-holder. It can ruin relationships, it can grieve the Holy Spirit and stop Him from moving within a service and can fester into something much more if not dealt with properly.

**James 4:11; 5:9** The scripture instructs us not to grumble or complain against another brethren. It is wiser to follow bible instructions (**Matthew 18:15-17**) about the matter than to develop a deep wound.

**I Peter 4:9-10** God has gifted each of us to serve Him and each other both in and out of the church.

**James 5:16** It is said that it is hard to remain angry and unforgiving toward the person you pray for.

**Romans 12:15-16; I Corinthians 12:24-26; Philippians 2:3** No one has all the answers and no one is better than anyone else. We all were saved the same way. We are in this together and we are serving together. Let each believer have the desire to love and encourage each other.