

DEVOTED

DEVOTED: NO PARTIALITY!

James 2:1-13

A Christian who is doing well is marked by the absence of partiality and presence of love.

1. Absence of Partiality

Definition of partiality:

“[Partiality] is an indication of a heart that at best is in need of spiritual help and at worst is a heart without grace.”¹

¹ Kent Hughes, *James: Faith That Works*, p. 91

2. Presence of Love

“There is a real danger in becoming so puffed-up over our freedom in Christ to wear black t-shirts that we begin to look down on the Ned Flanders-style Christians who love the Lord and have served him faithfully for years. In fact, it may be that the Lord is more pleased with their humble walk (though not as sophisticated) than he is with yours. The fact is, love for other Christians is a hallmark of a true believer (1 John 2:10).”²

Discussion/Application Questions:

- How is the sin of partiality offensive to God? What are the dangers of partiality James points out in this passage?
- Are you increasingly becoming friends with people who are different than you? Are you growing in your love toward those you consider to be “uncool”?
- How does the gospel make a difference when it comes to loving others?
- What is one thing you want to do to apply what you heard from God’s Word? Who are you going to be accountable to for change?

² Mike McKinley, *Contemplating Cool*, an article written for 9 Marks Ministries (www.9marks.com)