

**THE DANGERS OF ELITISM**

There have always been people who think they are better than anyone else. Some feel this way because they have a lot of money, or power, or they belong to a certain social class, religious group or racial group. We think of the Pharisee’s prayer who began by thanking God that he was not like everyone else.

James in 2:1-13 warns Christians not to show respect of persons in the assembly. Paul harshly condemned the Corinthian church because they were practicing social ranking. James provides the answer to social ranking by saying “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This is a direct quote from Leviticus and Jesus quotes from Deut. 6:4 which says the first command is to love God and the second is like it, to love our fellowman. To show respect of persons is sinful because it is not loving.

As the church we must reflect God’s new reality within the assembly of believers where there is no room for racism or elitism in the church. This applies outside the actual assembly as well.

Somewhere, along the way, the church may have lost this principle. If we could re-appropriate the practice of the early church of loving each other what a witness that would be to the world.

Of course we are special to God, but this does not become a form of elitism. Rather we are called to humble service. If we can show the world our love and acceptance of one another in Jesus Christ, they will ask the reason for our hope.

Let James’ words sink deep into us.

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***Welcome to our services*  SUNDAY Worship…………………………………9:30 AM Bible Class……………………………10:45 AM MONDAY Bible Study……………………………6:30PM WEDNESDAY Bible Study……………………..…..7:00 PM THURSDAY W.I.N.G.S. (Women In God’s Service) Ladies’ Bible Class…………….10:00 AM**

**Monday PM, Wednesday PM and Thursday AM classes will all meet in the West Annex for the present time**

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**Sermon:**

**HONORING OUR FATHER**

Friday Christians



**SKYVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST 5972 62ND Avenue N. Pinellas Park, Fl – PO Box 3118 33780**

