

No Jew, No Gentile, Only Christ

Scripture

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, [that is], the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man [from] the two, [thus] making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief [cornerstone], in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Eph 2:14-22 NKJV)

Devotion

He created one new man from the two. God has opened the door to all men through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. No longer is Jew and Gentile recognized, but Christ.

It would do us good to pause and ask ourselves how we treat others. Do we place importance on one group of people over another? Do we see people as favored by God and others held off? Well if we do, we must be careful to repent and seek the Lord’s Spirit.

God is no respecter of person. Nationality is not important with God, only humility. We must be likewise.

James talks about playing favorites and condemns the practice. “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” (Jas 2:1-4 NKJV)

The context in James is financial, but the practice of making distinctions is universal, and is not to be practiced in any form for any reason. Notice what James says about this evil. He questions, “Have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”

May we never be guilty of such evil thoughts! We may guard our hearts by remembering that someday we too will stand before a judge, a righteous, all-knowing judge.