

Wisdom From Above —Without Partiality

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 12, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Today, we will discuss the subject of being without partiality.

Greek word in James 3:17

The Greek word in James 3:17 concerning partiality is used only here in the New Testament.

■ *Adiakritos* (No. 87 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek word in James 3:17 translated as “without partiality.” It is used only here in the New Testament.

■ *Prosklisis* (No. 4346 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is another Greek word translated “partiality.” It is also only used one time (1 Timothy 5:21) in the New Testament.

1 Timothy 5:21—“I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.”

■ *Prosopolepto* (No. 4380 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek verb translated “show partiality.” It is used only once (James 2:9) in the New Testament.

James 2:9—“But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

■ *Prosopoleptes* (No. 4381 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a Greek noun translated “shows no partiality.” It is used only once (Acts 10:34) in the New Testament.

Acts 10:34—“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.’ ”

■ *Prosopolepsia* (No. 4382 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is a Greek noun used four times in the New Testament.

Romans 2:11—"For there is no partiality with God."

Colossians 3:25—"But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality."

James 2:1—"My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality."

Old Testament references

Since we have a little space remaining, let's look at a few Old Testament verses that describe this concept.

Leviticus 19:14—"You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD."

Leviticus 24:22—"You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God."

Deuteronomy 1:17—"You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it."

Deuteronomy 10:17—"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe."

Deuteronomy 16:19—"You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous."

Deuteronomy 24:17—"You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge."

Proverbs 24:23—"These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment."

Proverbs 28:21—"To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress."