

# James 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

## Analysis

---

**But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.** If you show partiality (prosōpolēmpteite, προσωποληπτεῖτε), you commit sin (hamartian ergazesthe, ἀμαρτίαν ἐργάζεσθε) and are convicted as transgressors. Favoritism is not a minor faux pas but a legal offense before God. The law exposes partiality as rebellion against His justice.

James underscores the seriousness of social sins often minimized. Reformed believers emphasize total depravity, acknowledging that prejudice springs from deeply sinful hearts requiring grace.

## Historical Context

---

Jewish communities prized justice, yet Roman patronage normalized bias. James declares that favoritism violates God's law just as much as more obvious sins. Paul's critique of Peter in Antioch demonstrates shared apostolic concern.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

1. Do you treat favoritism as sin worthy of repentance?
2. How can your community confront systemic partiality?
3. Who needs to hear confession or receive restitution from you?

## Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	προσωποληπτεῖτε,	ἀμαρτίαν	ἐργάζεσθε
if	But	ye have respect to persons	sin	ye commit
G1487	G1161	G4380	G266	G2038
ἐλεγχόμενοι	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	νόμου	ώς
and are convinced	of	G3588	the law	as
G1651	G5259	G3551	G5613	G3848
παραβάται				
transgressors				

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 19:15** (Parallel theme): Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

**John 8:9** (Parallel theme): And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.