

Equal in God's Eyes

Walking by the dish room at a recent YMCA conference, a friend of mine poked her head in the door and thanked the dishwashers for an excellent breakfast. She didn't know any of them but she made a point to acknowledge the efforts of people who work behind the scenes. How often is it that entry-level employees are treated with the respect and appreciation often reserved for executives? Not often enough.

There are no second class people -- everyone is equal in God's eyes. *He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam (Acts 17:26).*



And it is very good. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).



Some people focus their attention on the rich and famous and ignore the less fortunate. They base their judgement of a person's worth on appearance or position. *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).*

Listen to these words from James 2: *My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?*

Be kind to strangers and all people. They are creations of the same God who made you. *Don't forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it (Hebrews 13:2).* You never know the effect your kind words will have on others.

The YMCA's traditional logo has an open Bible with John 17:21 highlighted. That verse says, *That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:21).* Let us all be one with the Lord.

Questions to Consider: Do you treat people differently because of their position? When was the last time you made an effort to greet the custodians, the dishwashers, and others? Do you go out of your way to help all people feel valued?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, Jesus was a carpenter – not a position of wealth or stature in his community. Yet He is the most honored person to ever walk this earth, showing us how to love everyone – the children, the downtrodden, the lame, and the people rejected by others. Let us love with our heart, accepting everyone as children of God. Amen.

