

CLASS: SS1
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: IMPARTIALITY
WEEK: 5
TERM: THIRD TERM

IMPARTIALITY

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Meaning of Impartiality

Impartiality is a virtue that recognises equality and brotherhood of men, irrespective of race, social background and influence. It encourages progress, peace and unity.

All Human Beings are Equal before God

This means that everybody created by God are equal before Him. Our God does not discriminate. Every human being made by God Almighty has a living body, soul and spirit equipped with all five senses. This goes to show that God made all things beautiful and all men are equal before God. (Genesis 1:26-28)

Warning against Prejudice/James' Teaching on Partiality (James 2: 1-13)

James advised all Christians to do away with any act of impartiality in the Church. He said that partiality can manifest when well-dressed and poorly-dressed individuals go to Church and the poorly-dressed person is asked to stand up for the well-dressed person. According to James this is partiality.

Showing partiality is not only causing division but also, assuming the role of judges with evil intentions or thought. To this end; no distinction should be made among Christians, for God does not make distinctions.

James further taught that God has chosen the poor in the world to be **rich in faith** and to become heirs of the kingdom in showing partiality, the poor has been dishonoured and the rich who drag them to court is honoured.

If you show partiality, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one has become guilty of all of it. If one commits adultery but does not kill, he is guilty of breaking the law. Therefore, all our thought and actions must be in consonance with observance of the **law of liberty**. A Christian who fails to show mercy to the oppressed will receive God's condemnation.

The "Golden Rule" (Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31)

The Gold Rule emphasises the importance of loving one another without discrimination and to remind us that we should be careful in the way we treat others. The way we want to be treated should inform the way we treat others.

Negative Effects of Nepotism, Favouritism and Tribalism in the Society

Nepotism and favouritism means the same thing. Both can be defined as choosing a candidate for appointment, admission or promotion on selective judgment and personal bias rather than on merit.

Tribalism is showing favour to someone because you belong to the same family or tribe. The effects of the above social vices in the society are:

1. Merit is sacrificed on the altar of injustice.
2. Quality and excellent performance is dethroned.
3. Mediocrity is enthroned.
4. The country lacks competent manpower to handle developmental projects with our foreign partners.
5. There is total collapse of the operational system.
6. Square pegs are put in round holes.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Highlight two ways James discourage the Christians against the practice of partiality in the Church?
2. State the 'Golden Rule'.