

# 1. What is the subject of this passage?

1 Corinthians Chapters 1 Through Chapters 4:7

# 2. What specific thing were these Christians in Corinth doing which was divisive? (1 Cor 1:11-13)

# 3. Define the sin of partiality.

# 4. What bad attitude of the heart do we demonstrate when we show partiality? (James 2:1-4)

# 5. Will God participate in (take part in, join up with, or become a member of) a show of partiality? Why or why not?

# 6. What are five ways in which worshipers show partiality (favoritism) towards names in how they divide or name themselves from other worshipers?

# 7. What should you do if you find yourself taking part in a show of partiality?

## Answer Key / Explanation

STOP! Before you read the answers, please fully answer the questions to the left. In this way you will learn best.

Q1: The main subject of this passage is the sin of partiality towards name.

Q2: They were dividing themselves after names of religious men, such as Paul, Apollos, and Peter (See 1 Cor 1:11-13).

Q3: The sin of partiality means a show, in words or deeds, of "personal favoritism" (Ja 2:1) of one thing over another thing of equal value, worth, meaning, or calling. For example, favoring a rich Christian over a poor one by giving him the better seat during worship (Ja 2:1-3).

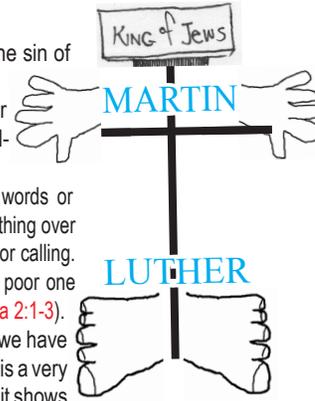
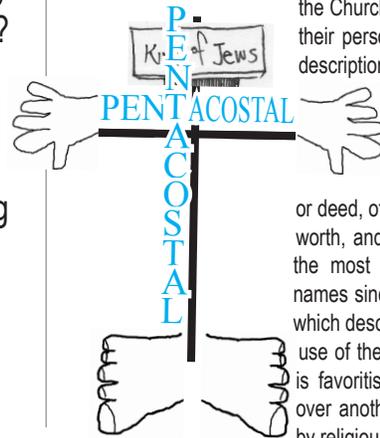
Q4: When we show partiality it reveals that we have an evil heart with bad motives (Ja 2:4). So, it is a very serious sin! It is a very bad attitude because it shows "dishonor" and disrespect to one thing over another thing of equal value, worth, meaning, or calling: "you have dishonored the poor man" (Ja 2:6).

Q5: God will not participate in a show of partiality. Indeed, He said, "Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality" (2 Chron 19:7). When it comes to partiality, have the righteous attitude of God in your judgement: "have no part in... partiality". Do not become a member of partiality.

Q6: **First**, by names of men or angels. For example, some worshipers in Corinth named themselves after Paul, Apollos, and Peter (1 Cor 1:11-13). Likewise, today some worshipers name themselves after Menno Simons (The Mennonite Church), Jacob Ammon (The Amish Church/Religion), Martin Luther (The Lutheran Church), etc. The sin with this is that none of these men, including Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, were crucified for them.

**Second**, by doctrine/teaching. For example, baptism (The Baptist Church), Pentecost (The Pentecostal Church), holiness (The Holiness Church), etc. The sin with this is that we ought not name ourselves after a teaching, but instead follow it and put it into practice, if indeed we are to do so. **Third**, by Bible words or phrases. For example, "church of God" (The Church of God), "brethren" (The Church of the Brethren), "churches of Christ" (The Church of Christ), etc. Nearly two thousand years after Christ rose from the dead, the Church of Christ (COC) chose this phrase as their personal favorite, party title, and exclusive description of their brotherhood, division, sect.

The sin with this is that these phrases were never used in the Bible as or intended to be used as party titles (favoritism, personal favoritism, in word or deed, of one thing over another of equal value, worth, and meaning, or calling). This is perhaps the most deceptive kinds of partiality towards names since they are actual phrases in the Bible which describe the body of Christ, the church. But use of them as a party title says it all. Indeed, it is favoritism/partiality in practice of one phrase over another of equal value, worth, etc. **Fourth**, by religious sounding words. For example, Catho-



lic (The Catholic Church), chapel (Oxford Bible Chapel), missionary (The Missionary Alliance Church). The sin with this is that these words are not in the Bible, they are the vocabulary of men. And so they take on their own man-made meaning. **Fifth**, by nationality. For example, Greek (The Greek Orthodox Church), German (The German Baptist Brethren Church), African (The African Methodist Church), etc. The sin with this is partiality towards a nationality. And we are not to divide or name the church by nationality.

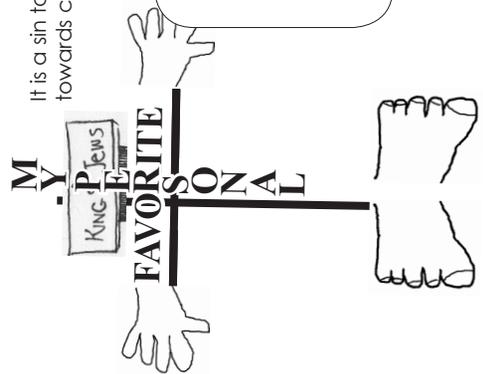
Now the solution to the "partiality toward names" sin is to simply divide one church by the specific location in which it meets, without prefix or suffix, just like Jesus did in Revelation 2 & 3 (the church in Ephesus, the church in Smyrna, etc.), and just like Paul did (the church in Prisca's and Aquila's house Ro 16:3-5, the church in your [Philemon's] house Phile 1, etc.). The church is to be divided by location, without prefix or suffixes, by the city or home in which it met. So, "What do we call ourselves?" Do we have to name our church? No. We can simply divide by location. This stops the partiality towards name game. It makes us impartial. It makes us judges with good motives, not bad. This allows us to use all of the descriptions of God's church in the Bible without showing favoritism towards one of them over all of the others. Partiality divides worshipers, but impartiality unites them.

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It is a sin to show partiality [favoritism] towards church names.



Q7: Stop elevating, in word and deed, one thing over another thing of equal value, worth, meaning, or calling. Be impartial. Do not have favorites. Do not personally favor one thing over the other, like one child over the other child. I urge you to stop showing partiality towards names. Instead, divide each church by its specific location only, without prefixes or suffixes. Do not join up with a show of partiality towards names. Be like God who said He would have no part in partiality (2 Chron 19:7). In other words, do not become a member (a part) of the partiality, the party. Don't join the party! Be impartial. Organize disciples by location, even a few, "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst" (Mt 18:20). So you can worship God the Father through Jesus Christ, His Son, even with two or three who believe in His name. But do so impartially! Finally, some nations require you to register a church with the government. Do not let the government cause you to sin by creating a partial name for yourselves. Just register as "The Church in \_\_\_\_\_" with the blank as your specific meeting location. Even governments understand that things are so called "named" by location, even themselves. For example, "The Mbeya Hotel" is simply a hotel in the Mbeya region of Tanzania. But do not name every church in your brotherhood "The Mbeya Church at Location 1", "The Mbeya Church at Location 2". This would be partiality towards names.

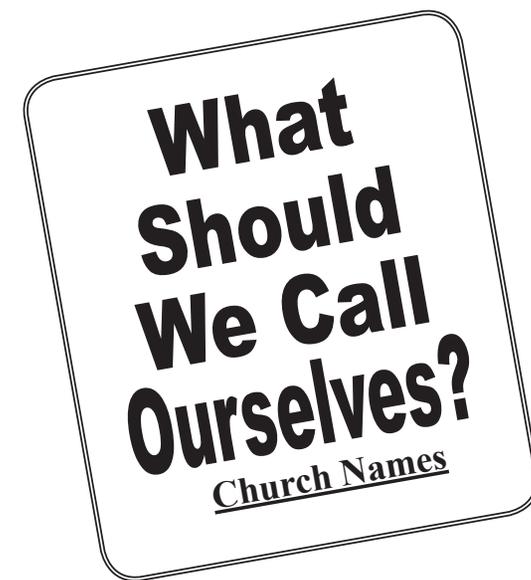
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The Bible discourages us from showing partiality. For example, "If you show **partiality** you are committing sin" (James 2:9). So it is a sin to show partiality. But what is "partiality"? How do we "show" it? Why is it a "sin"? How do we repent of it? Is there more than one way in which we can show partiality, and therefore sin? Whom do we sin against when we commit the sin of partiality, God or man? What is the punishment for this sin? Is it a serious and weighty sin, or is it a small and light sin? Is it a log or a speck, a big matter or a small one?

Many Christians are not aware of how easy it is to commit the sin of partiality. Many disciples, all over the world, are committing it right now! After you complete this worksheet on partiality, you will understand exactly what I mean. You will learn how most Christians continue to commit the sin of partiality in one very serious and divisive way. I encourage you to learn about this and overcome the sin of partiality in your life and walk with God. Partiality is sin! Do not commit it, in any form! Rick David, an Evangelist & Author of FreeBibleStudy.org

# Partiality

"If you show **partiality** [personal favoritism] you are committing sin" James 2:9



By Rick David, an Evangelist, Author of FreeBibleStudy.org **Register Today!**