

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory
James 2:1

James 2:1 reads, “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.”

Herein the Biblical prohibition is delivered that we must not attempt to combine a daily Christian walk of faith with the practice of showing respect to persons. Involved in this presentation is the truth that our daily walk of faith is centered upon “our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.” By referring to the Lord Jesus Christ as *our* Lord Jesus Christ, James was publicly confessing his inclusion among those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. In addition, by declaring that the Lord Jesus Christ is “the Lord of glory,” James was also confessing his belief in the true identity and full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as David referred to Jehovah of hosts as “the King of glory” in **Psalm 24:7-10**, and just as David referred to Jehovah God as “the God of glory” in **Psalm 29:3**, and just as the apostle Paul referred to God the Father as “the Father of glory” in **Ephesians 1:17**, and just as Stephen referred to the One who met with Moses through the burning bush as “the God of glory” in **Acts 7:2**, even so James here refers to the Lord Jesus Christ as “the Lord of glory.” Before Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross and bodily resurrection out of the dead, James, as well as Jesus’ other biological brethren through Mary, had not accepted Jesus’ claims as the only-begotten Son of God and as the eternal Savior of the world. Yet it is apparent that after his encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in **1 Corinthians 15:7**, James discarded his unbelief and wholeheartedly placed his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and sovereign Lord. Indeed, he set his wholeheartedly devotion upon the Lord Jesus Christ as “the Lord of Glory,” as the One in whom dwells all the majestic fullness “of the Godhead bodily.” (**Colossians 2:9**) Even so, there are six facets of truth in this title, “the Lord of glory,” for us to consider.

I. Our Lord Jesus Christ is by divine nature majestically glorious.

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **John 1:14** declares, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God the Father. He is God the Son, the Second Person of the eternal Godhead. As such, He possesses all of the divine glory and majesty in His Person by nature. From eternity past He is the majestically glorious Son of God. Even so, in **John 17:5** He prayed unto God the Father, saying, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” Furthermore, He is the almighty Creator of all. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (**John 1:3**) “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (**Colossians 1:16-17**) Even so, all of the creation, from the heavens above, to the earth beneath, to all that is contained in them, reveals the majesty of His divine glory. Thus in **1 Corinthians 2:8** God’s Word declares that if “the princes of this world” had known the wisdom of God in the gospel, they would not have crucified the One who is the very “Lord of glory,” who is by His eternally divine nature the very Son of God.

II. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the revelation of God the Father's glory.

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **John 1:18** declares, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." At that time when the Lord God had led the children of Israel unto Mount Sinai, Moses made request unto the Lord God, saying, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." (**Exodus 33:18**) Unto this request the Lord God gave answer in **Exodus 33:20-23** – "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: and it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: and I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." No living person can look upon the full glory and majestic radiance of God the Father's face and remain alive. Yet our Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son born and manifested in human flesh. (**Galatians 4:4; 1 Timothy 3:16**) Even so, as God the Son manifested in human flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ perfectly reveals the fullness of God the Father's divine glory. Even as the opening portion of **Hebrews 1:3** teaches, God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, is the very brightness of God the Father's glory and is the express (or, exact) image of God the Father's person. Just as the cloud of majestic radiance that rested upon the tabernacle (**Exodus 40:34-38**) and that filled Solomon's temple (**1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3**) revealed the divine glory of God the Father in the time of the Old Testament, even so our Lord Jesus Christ is the fully reveals the divine glory of God the Father for this time of the New Testament. Indeed, the fullness and glory of God the Father is actually embodied in our Lord Jesus Christ. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." (**Colossians 2:9**) Thus in **2 Corinthians 4:6** gives the report, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Yea, the divine glory of God the Father is fully revealed "in the face" (that is – in the Person) of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Our Lord Jesus Christ is exalted by the Father unto heavenly glory.

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Hebrews 1:3** declares, "Who being the brightness of his [of God the Father's] glory, and the express image of his [God the Father's] person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Even so, speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Philippians 2:6-11** proclaims, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Indeed, we should confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is "the Lord of glory;" for at this present time He sits upon the throne of heaven in glorious majesty at the right hand of God the Father. Again speaking concerning the working of God the Father's mighty power, **Ephesians 1:20-22** proclaims, "Which [mighty power] he [God the Father] wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own

right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.” Indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ sits as “the Lord of glory” on the throne in heaven at the right hand of God the Father; for God the Father has highly exalted Him far above all others, and has given Him a name above all other names, and has given Him all authority over all of the creation. Yet again speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **1 Peter 3:22** states, “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” And yet against **1 Timothy 3:16** gives the report, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God [that is – God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ] was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” Who is the Lord and King of glory? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, He is “the Lord of glory.”

IV. Our Lord Jesus Christ is found unto us believers to be most glorious.

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Revelation 1:5-6** declares, “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” Indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ is most glorious unto us believers because He loved us enough to lay down His life as “an offering and a sacrifice to God” for our eternal salvation. (**Ephesians 5:2**) He is most glorious unto us believers because He “washed us from our sins in his own blood.” He is most glorious unto us believers because through Him we made the very children of God the Father and are made “kings and priests unto God and his Father.” Even so, speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **1 Peter 2:4-6** proclaims, “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” Thus the opening line of **1 Peter 2:7** exclaims, “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious.” Again in **1 Corinthians 1:30-31** God’s Word declares, “But of him [that is – of God the Father] are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” So then, we should join with the apostle Paul from **Galatians 6:14** in stating, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” Yea, let us join with the shout of the believers in heaven from **Revelation 5:12**, “saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” Yea, although we do not now see Him, yet believing, let us love Him and rejoice in Him “with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (**1 Peter 1:8**)

V. Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming again with power and great glory.

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Matthew 16:27** declares, “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man accord-

ing to his works.” Even so, in **Titus 2:13-14** we believers are instructed to be “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ’s coming again will be a “glorious appearing;” and that “glorious appearing” is the “blessed hope” for every faithful believer. Yet that “glorious appearing” of our Lord Jesus Christ will not be a “blessed hope” for the unbelievers and the rebellious. Even so, **Matthew 24:30** states, “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Again **Revelation 1:7** states, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ is coming again “with power and great glory” to be glorified and admired among us believers. However, when He comes again “with power and great glory,” He will bring fiery judgment upon the unbelievers. Even so, **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** proclaims, “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

VI. Our Lord Jesus Christ is a fountain unto us believers of His glory.

In **John 17:20-23** our Lord Jesus Christ prayed concerning all believers, saying, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” Through this prayer our Lord Jesus Christ indicated that He has given glory unto us believers out of the very glory that God the Father had given unto Him. Furthermore, He indicated that this glory is His very own presence within us, He in us, and the Father in Him, that we may be made perfect with them in one. Indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ is a fountain of His glory unto us.

By His gospel we are called unto His eternal glory. Even so, in **2 Thessalonians 2:14** the apostle Paul stated, “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Again in **2 Timothy 2:8-10** the apostle stated, “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” Yet again **1 Peter 5:10** declares, “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

Through His indwelling Holy Spirit, we are changed from glory to glory unto His glorious image of righteousness. Even so, **2 Corinthians 3:18** declares, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” Through His presence in us by His indwelling Holy Spirit, we have the certain hope of future glory. Even so, speaking concerning us believers, **Colossians 1:27** declares, “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Through suffering for His name’s sake, His Spirit of glory rests upon us in fullness of glory. Even so, **1 Peter 4:14** declares, “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”

Finally, when our Lord Jesus shall appear in the power and great glory of His Second Coming, we shall be glorified together with Him and shall rejoice in our union with His glory. Even so, **Romans 8:16-18** declares, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Again **Philippians 3:20-21** declares, “For our conversation [our citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” Yet again **Colossians 3:3-4** declares, “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”