

God's Law

Stand Up and Speak

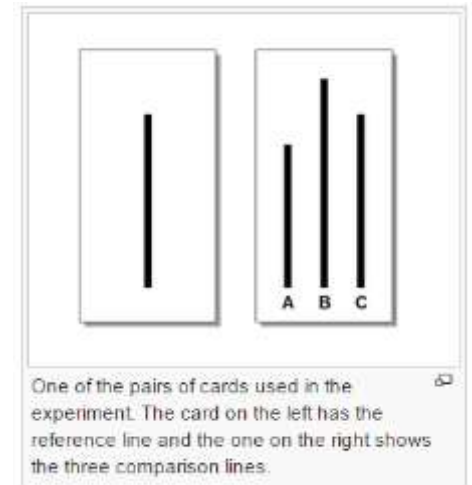
Exodus 23:1-3 (NIV) "Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness. 2 "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, 3 and do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.

According to these verses, how was a person to act on the witness stand?

Why are we sometimes tempted to blend in with the crowd?

Consider the Asch Conformity Experiments

- Participants were shown a card with a line on it, followed by a card with three lines on it (lines labeled A, B, and C, respectively). Participants were then asked to say aloud which line (i.e., A, B, or C) matched the line on the first card in length.
- Confederates to the experiment were told to unanimously give the correct response or unanimously give the incorrect response. The group sat in a manner so that the real participant was always the last to respond.
- In the control group, with no pressure to conform to confederates, the error rate was less than 1%.
- Trials in the experimental group revealed that one-third of all responses were incorrect. These incorrect responses often matched the incorrect response of the majority group (i.e., confederates)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asch_conformity_experiments



⇒ We are easily influenced by peer pressure ... even in an objective issue which should be obvious.

Our passage says "do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd" Why is abiding by these principles important for one who professes to be in right relationship with God?

Why might the principle in verse 3 surprise us? What are some ways the affluent in our culture receive special treatment?

So why would God say don't show favoritism to the poor in the context of a lawsuit?