

*Abstract*

The phrase οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν διαστολή is generally translated in English as «there is no distinction» implying that Paul opposes all ethnic distinctions between Jew and Greek. But there is no agreed meaning for διαστολή in the New Testament. Fitzmyer translates Rom 10:12 as «for no distinction is made between Jew and Greek», implying that despite recognized ethnic difference, no distinction is made on this account. Paul's claim is based on the biblical assertion of the impartiality of God who treats all justly despite actual differences. In response to diverse ethnic or other differences, the God of Israel still refuses to discriminate against peoples because of their differences. This is the background of Paul's assertion οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν διαστολή. Paul's statements are not universal claims for sameness before God for Jew and Greek, instead he is saying that as regards the Scriptures and in relation to sin, there is no discrimination against peoples because of their acknowledged differences.

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