

# **Faith Works**

Week #3: Faith Works Impartiality

James 2:1-13

1998 NBA Finals - Byron Russell

- ✓ Favoritism - **giving unfair preferential treatment to a person or group at the expense of another**
- ✓ Impartial - **not biased or prejudiced; fair, just**
- James 2:1 - *My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.*

There are no **impartial** people.

- James 2:2-4 - *Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

Favoritism undermines the **Gospel** and violates the **Law**.

- James 2:5-6 - *5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you?*
- James 2:8-10 - *8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

Thankfully, God doesn't play **favorites**.

- Romans 3:22-24 - *There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

Faith works **love**.

- James 2:12-13 - *12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

30 AD Caesarea - Cornelius

- Acts 10:34 - 34 *Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.*

**FaithWorks Daily Challenge**

1. Say 1 - **word of love**
2. Do 1 - **act of love**
3. Love 1 - **person of need**

**Points to Ponder**

- 1) List some people you think might feel uncomfortable in our church...
  - a) why do you think they would feel that way?
  - b) what would Jesus see (externally and internally) when they walked in or sat next to us?
  - c) why would you react that way?
  - d) what is the impact on the Gospel message they might hear if that is what they perceive?
- 2) What 1 thing will you work on this week in your homes, at work, and at church to act and speak in a way that reflects the law of love to "your neighbor".

***Homework: James 2:14-26***