

02/04/24 Message

Part of Same God - New Me
February 4, 2024

Message: New Love

Series: Same God

Welcome to FCC! This is our new series for the new year that will hopefully inspire a new you! A new year can't and won't change our lives, but God can! We allow ungodly influences to change who we are. Yet, He is there, arms open wide, with more love to give than we deserve. Regardless of what we do, He is the same God! He is the same God who loves us so much, He created us! He is the same God who loves us so much, He offers us salvation! He is the same God and He wants a new me!

Who do you favor

James 2:1 (NLT)

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

*Prejudice is a disease of the mind that affects the heart.
Prejudice is, literally, a preformed opinion, usually unfavorable, based on insufficient knowledge, irrational feelings, or inaccurate stereotypes.*

—Unknown

Prejudice is when we PRE-JUDGE

What are some things people are prejudice about:

- Race
- Age
- Class
- Sex/Gender
- Sexual Orientation

I could keep going with all these biases and prejudices

that are all around us... What about people who hurt us? Man, we are prejudiced against them! God tells us we should forgive them. I don't have to give them a position in my life to hurt me again, but I have to release the hurt, release the anger, release the negativity. I can't love them, unless I forgive them - and God commands me to love! James, the brother of Jesus says - how can you claim to love Jesus... how can you claim to have faith in Jesus... if you are prejudiced... if you're a bigot! You know what bigotry is, right? It's an unreasonable attachment to a belief, opinion, or faction, in particular prejudice against a person.

—Pastor Chad

Read **James 2:1-13 (NLT)**

Peter breaks prejudice

In Acts 10 Peter was asked by Cornelius (Roman officer) to come to his house. The law is against a Jewish man (Peter) entering a Gentile (Cornelius') home. It was a prejudice against Gentiles.

In **Acts 10:26** Peter said, "I'm a human being just like you." Then in **Acts 10:28** Peter said, "God has shown me that I should no longer think" differently of you... or anyone else for that matter!

Acts 10:34 (NLT)

...I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism...

James explains the punishment for prejudice

In **James 2:9** he tells us - if you show favorites (if you're prejudice, if you're biased, if you look down on anyone, if you treat anyone differently because of your prejudice) then you are committing a sin against God, you are guilty!

1 John 4:8 says if you don't love others then you don't know God because God is love. If you don't love others the way He loves others, you don't know Him.

How to treat others

1 Peter 3:15 tells us to always be prepared to share our faith (always be prepared to tell people about the hope we have in Jesus) but do it with...

- GENTLENESS
- RESPECT

That's where many so-called-Christians lose the ability to be Christ-like... They feel it's their job to judge and criticize. Some even feel it's their job to condemn and correct.

—Pastor Chad

1 Peter 4:8 says above all, love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins.

James 5:20 (NLT)

...you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

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