



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Living Proof of Love (Are You a Christian Snob?)

Passage: James 2:1-13

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Are you a Christian snob? Before you dismiss the thought too quickly, consider this: “Who, outside of your present circle of friends, have you attempted to include in your life recently?” Deep down, most of us carry an invisible list of who we find appealing and who we’d rather avoid. We gravitate toward those who think like us, look like us, or live like us, and without realizing it, we quietly close the door on others. But the hard truth is this: when we withhold acceptance from those whom God has already received, we place ourselves in opposition to His heart. And that’s exactly the issue James takes up with the early church.

I. A Principle to Remember (Verse 1)

A. God shows no partiality

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” (Acts 10:34)

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work...” (1 Peter 1:17)

God’s grace makes no distinction. God does not play favorites. He does not evaluate us by wealth, skin color, education, or social standing. And if we profess faith in Christ, we cannot either.



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II. A Problem to Remedy (Verses 2-4)

James paints a vivid picture: a rich man walks in, adorned with rings and fine clothing. He is honored. Then a poor man enters, in work-stained clothes, and he is pushed aside. James says this is evil!

James says favoritism is sin. To treat people differently based on externals is to judge with evil thoughts.

III. A Perspective to Adopt (Verses 5-11)

- A. Favoritism is inconsistent with God's method.

God has always chosen by grace, not by wealth or status.

- B. Favoritism is inappropriate given the conduct of the rich.

Why would you honor those who dishonor Christ?

- C. Favoritism is indifferent to Scripture.

Jesus said the greatest commandments are:

- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
- Love thy neighbor as thyself (Matthew 22:37-39)

IV. A Practice to Implement (Verses 12-13)

- A. Judged by our words.

- B. Judged by our deeds.

- C. Judged by our attitudes.

Relationships drive the health of the church. Churches that welcome, love, and include grow strong. Churches that show favoritism die.



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Conclusion: Wouldn't you like to be the kind of church that reaches across barriers and shows Christlike love?

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

So let us be living proof of love. Let us reject favoritism, embrace mercy, and open our arms wide to all whom Christ has welcomed. For mercy rejoices against judgment.



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