

Where's the Faith? Favoritism – A Church Problem

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever felt like you were on the receiving end of favoritism? What happened? How did it make you feel?

Have you ever felt like you were on the wrong end of favoritism? What happened? How did it make you feel?

Why is favoritism such an easy ditch for a church to fall into?

Who are usually the “favorites”, or the ones who receive special treatment at churches?

Who are the people groups who are often marginalized in churches?

What practical things do you think churches could do to make church more welcoming?

Is there a difference between someone feeling welcome in a church and feeling comfortable in a church? Should there be? If not, why not? If yes, what are the differences?

In Matthew 5:46-47, Jesus said “If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?” How would you explain and apply this verse to someone who has never read it? What does Jesus mean? What does He want us to do as a result?

Have you ever thought about communion in the sense of “communion with God” as well as “communion with God’s people”? Do you agree or disagree with this idea? Why?

Generally speaking, do you think the way we celebrate communion makes it easier for people to feel equal and welcome or makes it more difficult? Why?

Below are the 4 application questions from the end of the sermon:

- Would you read the book of James this week?
- What could you do personally to make Rexdale Alliance Church a more welcoming place to everyone, and lessen the natural pull of favoritism?
- What could we do corporately to make Rexdale Alliance Church a more welcoming place to everyone and lessen the natural pull of favoritism?
- How does God want you to serve the community for our 60th anniversary on October 31?