



FAITH & FAVORITISM DON'T MIX

September 2, 2026

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God Is Not A Respector Of Persons

READ: James 2:1-13

THEME: Favoritism -- Don't Show It!

(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?*

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FAVORITISM = undue and unfair partiality; pandering to someone because they are rich, influential, powerful or popular. -- a fault which the New Testament consistently condemns

Romans 2:11 (NIV) – For God does not show favoritism.

Favoritism Causes Divisions – in Families; Society;
Church

**Favoritism Can Cause Us To Miss Out On God's
Best And Brightest**

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Favoritism Is Unjust In It's Judging

It Leads to Unjust Judgments

Leviticus 19:15 “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly

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God Looks At The Heart:

1 Samuel 16:6–7 (NIV) – 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him.

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

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“You Can’t Judge A Book By Its Cover”

We Don’t Know What’s Going On Inside A Person

We Don’t Know What God is Doing In Them

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People Judge Others “By Their Cover”:

- Appearance
- Ancestry
- Age
- Achievement
- Affluence

Outer Appearances Appear More Important Than Inner Character

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***To See Favoritism From God's Perspective --
We Need To See The Big Picture***

(James 2:2-4 NLT) “For instance, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in shabby clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor” – well, doesn’t this discrimination show that you are guided by wrong motives?”

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James: “*Don’t Associate Your Favoritism With Our Glorious Jesus Christ.*”

What Is It That Makes Us Worthy In God’s Eyes?

**All People Are Made In The Image Of God.
(Gen. 1:26, 27)**

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Looking Only On The Outer Appearances Is Inconsistent w/ Our Faith:

- 1. That Is Not What God Is Like*
- 2. That Is Not The Way God Works*
- 3. That Is Not The Way It Is*
- 4. That Is Not The Way Love Operates*

James 2:8b-9 (NLT) *"Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you pay special attention to the rich, you are committing a sin, for you are guilty of breaking that law.*

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Godly Love Will Never Harm Others (1 Cor 13:4-8,11-13)

**How I Relate To You
Proves How Much I Love God.**

How To Avoid Judging A Book By Its Cover: (James 2:12-13)

- 1. Let The Bible Be Your Standard.***
- 2. Let Love Be Your Law.***
- 3. Let Mercy Be Your Message.***

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How To Be A Church That Loves People: *Start here:*

- 1. Accept Them***
- 2. Appreciate Them***
- 3. Affirm Them***

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Everyone Has "Celebrity Status" With God

Everyone Should Be Welcomed Equally

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There Are No Distinctions Within The Church!

Treatment of Others Reflects Relationship w/ God

May We Have A Reputation Of Godly Love

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Faith & Favoritism Don't Mix:

1. Let The Bible Be Your Standard.

2. Let Love Be Your Law.

3. Let Mercy Be Your Message.