

James: Faith at Work

"The Sin of Partiality"

James 2:1-7

Sunday, June 28th, 2026

~ Chapter 2 kicks off an incredibly difficult passage. Difficult not in understanding, but in application. But this section doesn't come to us out of nowhere....

** Note vs. 27 of chapter one - *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction ..."*

~ The Big Picture: *As followers of Jesus, we are called to see beyond social barriers and demonstrate the love of God to everyone.*

~ Favoritism Defined = the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.

Two reasons Christians can not & should not show any kind of favoritism or discrimination towards others:

1. Favoritism _____ man.
2. Favoritism _____ God Himself. (James 2:10)

I. Acknowledge Our Sinful _____ (v. 1-3)

~ Partiality, or favoritism is a sin that creates a _____ in our hearts and minds.

➤ Favoritism is not just a NT teaching ...

~ Proverbs 28:20-21 - *"A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. To show partiality is not good..."*

~ Proverbs 22:2 - *"The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all."*

II. Accept God's Sovereign _____ (v.4-5)

~ Verses 4-5 challenge believers' when we are guilty of discriminatory actions. Discrimination is a sin - we are making judgements with evil thoughts.

~ *A Side Note:* when we see the word "choose" or "chosen" when the NT speaks of God's own choosing of his people... I don't necessarily think it always means "salvation" and/or "redemption."

➤ In most cases it means "He chose them to represent Himself here on earth, knowing that they may very well not choose to love him."

➤ James 2:5 verifies this concept: Notice the latter part of vs. 5 "which He has promised to those who love him."

~ The clear teaching from Scripture is that God has called you to love your neighbor as yourself, which ultimately means to love unconditionally.

III. Align Ourselves With God's Holy _____ (v. 6-7)

~ We must align our hearts with God and with His holy justice.

cf. 2 Thess. 1:5-7 ... *"since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you.."*

~ A real life example of favoritism in our day & age would be the world of celebrity. We elevate people based upon notoriety and cultural status. But that often leads to _____.

~ Sam Allberry once said "Acceptable religion is inclined toward the needy, not away from them."

~ For those who identify with Christ, Jesus calls us to be agents of reconciliation and love, always reflecting His character to others.

~ A preview of next week; Not quite done with favoritism ...

As we have _____ mercy, so we _____ mercy. And the opposite can be said as well = If we do not _____ mercy, we demonstrate that we have not _____ mercy.