



**So what's the big deal
about favoritism?**

JAMES 2:1-13

James' purpose

- ▶ Exhorting followers of Jesus to maturity in their faith and holy living in the daily aspects of life.
- ▶ Describing a life of full submission to Jesus – what he/she is, does, feels and has – to live a fully integrated or whole life in Christ.
- ▶ Wants followers of Jesus to see how our Christian faith and Christian love get expressed in a variety of circumstances of life.
- ▶ Rather than describing the “what” of Christian beliefs (a doctrinal 101), James is more concerned about the “how” of living as Christ followers.

James 2:1-4

- ▶ 2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

What's Wrong with Favoritism?

- ▶ It is unacceptably discriminatory and reflects a thought life that demonstrates a polluted worldly mentality (vs. 4)
- ▶ It's wrong because in God's upside down kingdom, He has a special love for those who are the lowly Christ-lovers of this world (vs. 5)
- ▶ The rich treat you and your Savior like trash (vs. 6-7)
- ▶ You are convicted of breaking the greatest law related to how we treat our fellow human being (vs. 8-9)

And the bonus answer....

- ▶ Catering to those who are more rich, famous and/or powerful can't begin to provide for your deepest needs for which you rightly should be dependent on God. It's a fool's errand.

James 2:10-11

- ▶ 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery, also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

James 2:12-13

- ▶ 12 **Speak and act** as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Small Group Discussion Questions

- ▶ How does the temptation of favoritism crop up in your life?
- ▶ In what ways (perhaps new ways) are you being called by the Holy Spirit) to “love your neighbor as yourself”, especially those who are “poor in the eyes of the world”? How might you be better centered in godly motivation for this?
- ▶ What helps you be better integrated as a speaker/believer/actor?