

## Discuss

**As Christians, we should not show favoritism, particularly when it comes to people and their appearance. James addresses this because at its core, favoritism is evil for several reasons: 1. It ranks people, which isn't what God does nor wants us to do. 2. It puts us in God's place as judge. 3. It wars against the truth that every human being is made in the image of God, giving them incalculable worth and value.**

*“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?” ([James 2:1, NLT](#))*

*“For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty 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 your judgments are guided by evil motives?” ([James 2:2-4, NLT](#))*

- What areas of life are you a snob?
- What does the evil of favoritism tell you about the importance of addressing it?

**If we don't get favoritism out of the mix, we are messing up the entire vision of the church, the community Christ came to establish. We wouldn't be any different or have anything to offer the world that it doesn't already have. Like the example of the rich and poor James references, the new community should look different than what the world has to offer.**

*“Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?” ([James 2:5-7, NLT](#))*

- Do you need to elevate your vision of and for the church?
- How can you protect the unity in the church by fighting against favoritism?

**Favoritism is also breaking The Great Commandment. It's no less of an offense in the eyes of God than any other sin, so we must remove it from our lives. Even if it's subtle, any sin is still out of step with how God wants us to live.**

*“Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws. For the same God who said, ‘You must not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘You must not murder.’ So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.” ([James 2:8-11. NLT](#))*

- Do you give subtle sin (like favoritism) the same attention as all other sin?
- Why is it important to address the sin in our lives?

## Next Steps

**Favoritism is simply the lack of grace and mercy toward other people, for simply having the “wrong face.” James tells us that we’ll be judged by the same way we judge others; so, we should simply love others the way we would want to be loved.**

*“So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.” ([James 2:12-13. NLT](#))*

**Reflect on how you view others: How do you treat waiters and waitresses? How do you decide who to greet, invite to a party, or hire? How do you view and think about people of another race? Commit to confront and challenge all of your thoughts for any signs of favoritism, and turning from it as sin.**

**August 8:** [Backpack Drive](#)

**August 11:** [The Grounds Online Book Club: “A Voice in the Wind”](#)

**Daily:** [Training Camp](#)

## Continued Reading

Read [James 2:1-13](#).

## Prayer

God, thank you for what we learned about favoritism and how we view and treat others. Help us to learn from it in any and every way it has prompted us. Amen.