

HOW TO LIVE LIKE JESUS

Don't Play Favorites

James 2:1-13

Week 4 July 10, 2022

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DON'T PLAY FAVORITES

My brothers and sisters, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. James 2:1 NAS

Who do we favor?

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? James 2:2-4 NIV

Showing partiality to the rich over the poor is perhaps one of the oldest shuns known to humanity.

GOD BLESSES THE POOR

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters: did God not choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? James 1:5 NAS

Why would you want to be rich?

If you do not need God how will you ever find salvation

TREAT PEOPLE WITH LOVE

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as violators. James 2:8-9 NAS

The royal law is the highest law. When you keep the royal law you will treat your neighbor from a motive of love and not personal gain.

When you accept God's love and the value He gives you, you will treat others, rich or poor, out of a motive of love.

ALL HAVE SINNED

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 2:10-11 NIV

No amount of 'good works' will ever makeup for your sin.
Sin must be paid for with a sinless sacrifice.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

Romans 3:22-25a NIV

Love overlooks superficial distinctions.

So speak, and so act, as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:12-13 NAS

Followers of Jesus should look like Jesus because He lives in us.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10 NAS

Do not look at people as above you or below you.
God loves us all.