

Series "Marks Of Maturity"
"Favoritism"
James 2:1-13
Study-4

The way that we behave towards people indicates what we really believe about God. We cannot, and dare not, separate human relationships from divine fellowship.

Favoritism, Prejudice – *"prejudgment of someone, receiving a face"*
James 2:1,3,4,6,9

James was concerned about the way believers treat other people.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Favoritism Inconsistent With God, James Illustrates Through The Believers' Fellowship, And Goes Against The Royal Law That Will Judge Us."

- 1. Verse 1 Favoritism Condemned:**
- 2. Verses 2-4 Favoritism Illustrated:**
- 3. Verses 5-11 Favoritism Argued:**
- 4. Verses 12-13 Favoritism Judged:**

1. Verse 1 Favoritism Condemned:

James 2:1 My brethren,

A term describing members of a family (God's). The issue that James is about to discuss is a family concern. (Believers) He is about to unleash his rebuke.

Context – James 1:19-27 James just covered being "A Doer Of The Word"

James is speaking of living out our Faith! (**James 1:9-11**)

do not

James gives a command. This is a command regarding the sin of favoritism.

do not hold your faith – *"our trust, our commitment"*

To have faith in Jesus is to profess to be a believer in Christ"

in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ

"The Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ Our Glorified Lord"

"Jesus The Glorified One" (Shekinah Glory)

Hebrews 1:3 This should humble us.

Jesus is our model to follow! Emptied Himself!

an attitude of personal favoritism.

(Partiality) *"to receive a face, worship of rank, giving special attention, partial treatment to someone based on outward appearance, or externals."* This is wrong!

Acts 10:34

The Law: Deuteronomy 1:17; 10:17

Wisdom Literature: Proverbs 24:23

NT Epistles: Romans 2:11

For there is no partiality with God. Colossians 3:25

The Gospels: Matthew 22:16

2. Verses 2-4 Favoritism Illustrated:

James 2:2 For if a man comes into your assembly (synagogue)

The early believers congregated in the synagogue, and later believers met in homes.

with a gold ring

Greek is plural says "*gold-fingered*" mark of affluence

and dressed in fine clothes,

Literally - "*brilliant clothing, new glossy cloths, bright white contrasted with the poor and dingy*"

and there also comes in a poor man (poverty-stricken) in dirty clothes,
"*old dirty, filthy, dingy, shabby cloths*"

James 2:3 and you pay special attention

You play favoritism.

Matthew 23:6 the chief seats in the synagogues,

"You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

Literally in harsh words -

"*Stand there, in the far corner, or sit here by my footstool.*"

James 2:4

"*Are you not discriminating among your own?*" (showing favoritism)

Partiality Is Wrong - Based On Evil Motives: and become judges with evil motives? (Answer YES!) The motive is evil.

Why Would We Show Partiality To The Rich?

and become judges with evil motives? "*evil-thinking judges*" corrupt judges, Leviticus 19:15 Evil Motives! James 4:11; 1 Peter 1:17

3. Verses 5-11 Favoritism Argued:

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: "*Listen, my most loved brothers.*"

James Presents Three Arguments Against Favoritism:

1. Verse 5 Favoritism Is Inconsistent With God's Actions:

did not God choose the poor of this world This speaks of God's grace (unmerited favor). **Luke 4:18** (Unmerited favor) God's choice not based upon money. **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Jesus was born in a manger.

His birth announcement was to shepherds, the outcasts of their society.

Jesus came from Nazareth, a hated community. **John 1:46**

to be rich in faith (*wealth consists in faith*)

God does not love the poor more than the rich, but it is because the poor respond more than those who have. Jeremiah 9:23-24

He promised to those who love Him?

Not to those who love this world, and its riches

James 2:6 But you have dishonored the poor man.

"Treating people or God with contempt, shame, or disrespect, directly violating God's commands and ordained order"

2. Verses 6-7 Favoritism Is Inappropriate With Man's Activity:

Is it not the rich who oppress you rich -

Those that place trust in "riches," not merely those who have. **Amos 8:4**

Who Is Dragging You Into Court? and personally drag you into court?

James 2:7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

3. Verses 8-11 Favoritism Breaks God's Royal Law:

James 2:8 the royal law, Because it was given by the King.

It was not a new law. **Leviticus 19:18**

Jesus gave this royal law (**Matthew 22:36-40**) Jesus took it from (**Deuteronomy 6:4-5**)

Royal Law Was Given By God The King: John 13:34

Royal Law Rules All Other Laws:

Romans 13:10 It is the fulfillment of the Law.

Royal Law Allows Us To Live Like Royalty:

Love sets us free and we begin to reign like kings.

James 2:9 show partiality,

"To judge or show bias based on outward appearances or personal gain."

It is viewing people through a lens of prejudice."

**you are committing sin,
Transgressors - "To step over a known boundary."**

James 2:10 The Law stands as a united whole.

**James 2:11 BOTH ADULTERY & MURDER ARE SIN:
To violate God's Law is to resist God's Authority!**

4. Verses 12-13 Favoritism Judged:

James 2:12 who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

2 Corinthians 5:10

James Says We Will Be Judged By Four Things:

1. Verse 12 Judged By Our Words:

So speak – Literally, "*Keep on speaking,*" we will have to give an account for the words that are spoken. (Keep in mind!) **Matthew 12:36**

2. Verse 12 Judged By Our Deeds: and so act,

(Act in light of the reality of the judgment to come!) **Colossians 3:22-25**

3. Verse 12 Judged By The Law Of Liberty: as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. John 14:15 When we obey, we are set free.

4. Verse 13 Judged For No Mercy: For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; Mercy - *Not getting what we deserve!*

Matthew 5:7; Romans 15:7

mercy triumphs over judgment.

(The merciful Christian looks forward to judgment!)

Mercy and justice both come from God.

Believer - Bema Seat **2 Corinthians 5:10**; Sinner **Revelation 20:11-13**

Application:

1. Our faith In Jesus Christ Does Not Mix With Personal Favoritism.
2. Partiality Is Wrong – Because It's Based On Evil Motives.
3. Favoritism Is Inconsistent With God's Actions, Favoritism Is Inappropriate With Man's Activity, And Favoritism Breaks God's Royal Law.
4. Favoritism Will Be Judged By Our Words, Our Deeds, The Law Of Liberty And For No Mercy.