

James 2:1-13

Faith and Favoritism

September 12, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

James 2:1 - My brethren, don't hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with *partiality*.

1. Favoritism is fueled by what we hear.

Acts 9:13 - "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've *heard* many reports about the terrible things this man has done!"

Jude 19 - It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

Romans 16:17 - I urge you, brothers and sisters, watch out for those who cause divisions... Keep away from them.

Titus 3:10 - Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

2. Favoritism is fueled by what we see.

1 Samuel 16:7 - The LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I've rejected him. The LORD doesn't *see* things the way you *see* them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

John 7:24 - Judge with righteous judgment.

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3. Favoritism is fueled by what we know.

v. 2:2-4 - For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³ and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” ⁴ haven't you shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

1. Favoritism is inconsistent with the heart of God.

Deut. 10:17 - The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality.

Acts 10:34 - Then Peter began to speak: “I now truly understand that God doesn't show favoritism.”

Matthew 22:16 - “Teacher, we know You're a Man of integrity and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth... You pay no attention to external appearance.”

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Job 34:19 - God shows no partiality to princes and doesn't favor the rich over the poor, for they're all the work of His hands.

James 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not *chosen* the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you've *dishonored* the poor man.

Luke 4:18 - “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the *poor*. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the *prisoners* and recovery of sight for the *blind*, to set the *oppressed* free.”

James 2:6 - You've dishonored the poor man. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? ⁷ Don't they blaspheme that noble name by which you're called?

2. Favoritism is inconsistent with the royal law.

James 2:8 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well.

Romans 13:9-10 - The commandments “Don't commit adultery,” “Don't murder,” “Don't steal,” “Don't covet,” and any other commandments, are summed up in this one decree: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

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3. Favoritism is sin.

James 2:8-11 - If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ *For He who said, “Don't commit adultery,” also said, “Don't murder.”* Now if you don't commit adultery, but you do murder, you've become a transgressor of the law.

4. Favoritism will be judged by God.

James 2:12-13 - So speak and so act as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 7:2 - "In the same way you judge others you will be judged."

Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of My brothers you do to Me."

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What fuels favoritism or discrimination?

1. Favoritism is fueled by _____.

2. Favoritism is fueled by _____.

3. Favoritism is fueled by _____.

Why we shouldn't show favoritism:

1. Favoritism is inconsistent with _____.

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2. Favoritism is inconsistent with _____.

3. Favoritism is _____.

4. Favoritism will be _____.