

STRAIGHT TALK

Christian *Snobbery*

James 2:1-13

The Problem - **FAVORITISM** in church vs. 1

Partiality = '**RECEIVING** or lifting **THE FACE**'

God's **VOICE** regarding favoritism

Deut. 10:17; Rom. 2:11; Prov. 18:5, 24:23, 28:21

The Example – Two **VISITORS** in the gathering vs. 2-4

A **RICH** visitor; a **POOR** visitor

Their **HEART** reaction toward both

The Response – Why favoritism is **WRONG** vs. 5-7

It goes against God's **PLAN** vs. 5

1 Cor. 1:18, 20, 26-29; Col. 3:10-12, Gal. 3:27-28

It goes against **PRACTICAL** living vs. 6

It goes against spiritual **VITALITY** vs. 7

The Remedy – The Royal law of **LIBERTY** vs. 8-13

Our **STANDARD** for loving others vs. 8

Their **JUSTIFICATION** of partiality vs. 9-11

God's standard of **ASSESSMENT** vs. 12-13

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 9th, 2025

Life Group Discussion Questions – February 9, 2025

James 2:8-10 *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. (ESV)*

DISCOVER (Read James 2:1-13)

1. Why is showing partiality a significant sin in God’s eyes? Have you previously thought of showing partiality as a small sin? Explain your thinking. Does a preference to associate with some people always turn into the sin of favoritism? What is the remedy for showing favoritism?
2. Did Jesus show favor to certain types of people? What is the difference between Jesus showing favor to some and loving everyone equally? What partiality is shown in John 3:16?
3. How does envy play into favoritism? Who do you pay attention to when you walk into church? What types of people might you steer away from?
4. What would go wrong in a church if those who gave the most got to sit up front and those who gave the least had to sit in the back?

EXPLORE

1. Read Luke 5:31-32. Jesus came not for the healthy but for the sick. Was this showing partiality? Distinguish between partiality and focus. When might it be good to focus more on one group of people over another?
2. Where in the Bible have you noted people asking for special consideration? Read Luke 14:7-11 and Mark 10:35-45. What did Jesus teach his disciples to do instead of expecting preferential treatment? At the Last Supper, Jesus deserved to be worshiped. What happened instead?
3. What are some of the questions that God will ask you when you meet Him? Did you love your neighbor as yourself will be one of the questions. Will this be a truthful assessment or a determining factor in whether you will live eternally in heaven? Explain. Read Matthew 25:36-40. In what ways will God assess your love of neighbors?
4. James focuses on individuals showing favoritism to others. In what ways do we see analogous behavior between churches and denominations? Do you look down on some churches as being lesser? How so?

EXPERIENCE

1. What are some of the subtle ways in which we shun those different than us? List some of the superficial reasons that lead to us showing partiality to some people.
3. Some distractions are good. What good might come from a homeless or unkempt person saddling up to the seat beside you next Sunday?
4. We tend to want to be around others that look like us. What are the pros and cons of this tendency?
5. Describe the impact on unfavored types of people when they are discriminated against. In contrast, if you have been welcomed into a group, how did that impact you for the positive?
6. Is there anyone you don't want to worship alongside in heaven?

PRAY

Holy Father, showing partiality, prejudice, being self-centered and such behaviors are displeasing to You. Reveal our hearts so that we may be more closely aligned with Your love, realizing that all are made in Your image. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.