

“Don’t Show Favoritism”

James 2:1-13

“Living Out What Lies Within” – A Message Series in James

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Regarding favoritism (discrimination, partiality, prejudism)... Can you relate to any of the following?

- The store owner’s unqualified son gets the promotion that you deserved.
- A younger child receives less attention and more undeserving punishment.
- A manager pays his female employees less than his male ones due to gender alone.
- Cultural heritage makes one the recipient of cruel racist jokes.

Here’s one more... One feels unfairly treated at church due to looking “different” or being poor.

- This is the example James used to address the issue... which is still relevant today, of course.

James 2:1-13 provides the insight and application we need.

- **V 1...** “DON’T”! Now that you know this is a _____, don’t be surprised if you get tested.
 - God doesn’t show partiality (Deut 10:17; Ac 10:34; Ro 2:11; Gal 2:6) and we’re called to imitate Him (1 Jn 2:6; Jn 13:15-16; Eph 5:1; 1 Pet 2:21).
- **VV 2-3...** Don’t make appearances more important than character. It would be _____ to do so.
- **V 4...** The Greek word for “evil” is *Poneros* (“poh-nay-ROSS”) which means to cause _____ and trouble.
- **V 5...** In other words, have you not _____ the previous teaching in 1:9-10?
- **VV 6-7...** Is it not uncommon today that the rich exploit the poor? Yet, _____ everyone (1 Pe 2:17).
- **VV 8-11...** Tell a demeaning racist joke, yell at a gay person, shun the poor... “Hey, at least I never killed anyone!” Umm, yes you did (Mt 5:21-22). The ground is _____ at the foot of the cross.
 - “All have sinned and fallen short (Ro 3:23)...” We all need God’s grace (Eph 2:8-9).
- **VV 12-13...** *Therefore...* Treat others in the light of the reality that one day you’ll appear before the judgment seat to give an account for all of the things you said and did, good and bad (2 Cor 5:10).
 - You’ve been set free from the bondage of sin and death! You’re now _____ to love and obey God which brings about indescribable joy! Why *wouldn’t* you want to follow the Royal Law?!

Kingdom Assignment: Spend some quiet time with the Lord this week and think on whether you have been discriminated against by anyone in your past. If yes, do you hold any grudges against that person? If yes, then confess this to the Lord and ask for forgiveness. Then, think on whether you’ve ever discriminated against someone else and if yes then confess this to the Lord as well. Perhaps He would even want you to approach someone and ask for their forgiveness. *On the other side of this is freeeeeedom!*