

No Favorites at the Foot of the Cross



James 2:1-9
Solid Rock Church
Craig Colin

Where have we been?

- Who James the apostle is
- Fiery trials and forming perseverance
- Listening and doing what the word says
- Caring for the poor and controlling the tongue

We all favor something

Sports teams

Food

Clothing

Cars

Political parties

Children and grandchildren



James 2:1-9

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. **2** 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? **5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? **8** If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. **9** But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Verse 1: Do not show favoritism

Jesus did not show any favoritism.

Romans 2:11-13: “For God does not show favoritism. All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.”

Acts 10:34-35: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”

Not showing favoritism was a big deal

It was a partial and discriminatory age

Society and culture were heavily influenced by class, ethnicity, nationality, and religious background.

In the ancient world, people were routinely and even permanently categorized because they were Jew or gentile, slave or free, rich or poor, Greek or barbarian

Verses 2-4: Meeting Places

“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. 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,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

What Christ Sees

1st Samuel 16:7: “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Do Not: look at what a person can do or what they are wearing

Do: Look at their heart, their faith, the way they love Christ and others

Verses 5-7

Luke 6:20-21

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

Verses 8-9

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”

- Loving your neighbors is the most important command
- Loving our neighbor prohibits partiality

Takeaways

1. Christian's must not show favoritism
2. Through humility, favoritism/partiality dies
3. Our Honor and Praise is to Christ Alone
4. At the Foot of the Cross, it Does not Matter Your Standing or Position