

A BIBLICAL WARNING AGAINST FAVORITISM IN THE CHURCH

James 2:1-13

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Where have you experienced favoritism, either as the one being favored or as the one being overlooked unjustly? How did you feel? Did you do anything about it?
- What motivations or justifications might lead us to allow our preference for particular qualities to affect how we treat people?

As humans we all have our preferences, but once again James warns us to constantly check our motivations - this time he's specifically warning us to watch for favoritism. He reminds us to love people with a heart after God's own heart. He encourages us to see people as God sees them. This isn't just for the benefit of the people with whom we're interacting or serving, but it's also for the benefit and growth of our own faith.

Reflection

- Like the disciples, it's still natural today to think the rich are highly favored by God. Spend some time examining the subconscious system you use to consider a person's worth - are there other qualities you think are more highly favored by God? Is your understanding biblical or does it follow the value system of the culture in which we live?
- What are the spiritual dangers of allowing favoritism to exist within the body of Christ?
- In segment 2 Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss James' chastisement to the Christians for favoring the people that were persecuting them...where might similar misguided practices be occurring in the church today?
- Who in your life might God be calling you to love even though the value systems of the world might suggest they do not deserve your love, compassion, or respect?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 19:16-30**
- **Mark 10:17-31**
- **1 Samuel 16:1-13**
- **Numbers 6:24-26**
- **Psalms 113**

Conclusion

In your prayers, consider asking God to grant you a heart after his own heart and eyes to see his people as he

sees them. Request that he grow a heart of compassion and love in you. Pray that the Holy Spirit would nudge you, bringing this passage to mind in the moments you need God's help to avoid bringing favoritism into his church, the body of Christ.

<https://groundwork.reframedia.com/episodes/a-biblical-warning-against-favoritism-in-the-church>

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