

No Playing Favorites

James: Real Christianity
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Main idea: There is no place for favoritism in the life of faith. Preferring the wealthy over the poor is incompatible with genuine faith.

INTRODUCTION

4 Ways To Help Overcome Playing Favorites

James 2:1-13 - No More Favoritism

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.*

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. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*

1. Understand God's heart towards those who are vulnerable.

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways you may be playing favorites.

3. Treat all people the way you want to be treated.

4. Consider directly engaging and serving the vulnerable to purge away all favoritism.