

Is Your Faith Working?

A Study of James

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“Don’t Play Favorites!”

James 2:1-13

“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism.” (James 2:1)

“...never treat anybody in a different way according to their outward appearance.” (James 2:1 GN)

HOW DO WE DISCRIMINATE?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

“For instance, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in shabby clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, ‘You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor’ — well, doesn’t this discrimination show that you are guided by wrong motives?” (James 2:2-3 NTL)

WHY NOT SHOW FAVORITISM?

1. Favoritism is _____.
“My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism.” (2:1)
2. Favoritism is _____.
“Listen, my dear brothers: 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 to those who love Him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of Him to whom you belong?” (James 2:5-7)
3. Favoritism is _____.
“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.” (2:8-9)

“If we say we love God, but hate others, we are liars. For we cannot love God whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen ... whoever loves God must love others also.” (1 John 4:20-21 TEV)

“God doesn’t have any favorites!” (Romans 2:11 CEV)

HOW CAN WE TREAT PEOPLE FAIRLY?

1. _____ everyone.
“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)
2. _____ everyone.
“Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.” (Philippians 2:3-4 NTL)
3. _____ everyone.
“Encourage one another and build each other up...” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)