



Redeeming Notes

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June 27, 2004

Living Out A Faith That Works
"The Fault in Favoritism"
James 2:1-13

"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." – James 2:8,9 (Memorize!)

PRINCIPLE: DON'T SHOW FAVORITISM

Ways We Show Favoritism

- **Class Discrimination**
- **Social Status**
- **Social "Cliques"**
- **Parenting**
- **Loyalties**

PROBLEMS WITH SHOWING FAVORITISM

1. Favoritism is **Forbidden**

"...as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism." – James 2:1

2. Favoritism is **Discriminating**

"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, 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" – 2:3,4

3. Favoritism is **Unloving**

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right." – 2:8

PRESCRIPTION TO OVERCOME FAVORITISM

1. **Accept** everybody.
"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you." – Romans 15:7
2. **Appreciate** everybody.
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of us should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others." – Philippians 2:3-4
3. **Affirm** everybody.
"...encourage one another and build each other up..." 1 Thess. 5:11

READING PLAN: *Meditate deeply on these connections from this week's teaching, asking yourself: 1) What does it say in general? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday – James 2:1-13

Tuesday – James 2:1; and Matthew 22:16

Wednesday – James 2:8; and Matthew 22:36-39

Thursday – James 2:10; Matthew 5:19

Friday – James 2:13 and Matthew 5:7

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Describe some ways in which we show favoritism today.
2. How does God view our practices of favoritism? How does James say God will judge favoritism? In what ways do you see that favoritism is "judgment without mercy" as mentioned in verse 13?
3. What is the royal law found in Scripture according to James 2:8? How does showing favoritism break this law?
4. What is God nudging you to do personally to become more accepting, appreciative, and affirming so others feel loved and accepted by you?