Favoritism– James 2:1-13
January 24, 2021

James 2:1-4

"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?

Favoritism is VALUING or DEVALUING someone based solely on external appearance.

James 2:5-7

"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?"

We should always align our hearts with what matters most to God, not us.

"God doesn't care if you have riches… He just doesn't want riches to have you.

James 2:8-11

"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. [11] For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker."

Whenever we judge someone, we are typically showing favoritism to ourselves. It is a way of saying, "I am my favorite. I am the standard."

James 2:12-13

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, [13] because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Grace is when God gives us what we don't deserve
Mercy is when God doesn't give us what we do deserve

Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others, we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the mercy which others are just as entitled to as we are." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Notes