

# James 2:1-13 Favoritism

## Read James 2:1-13

The Greek word *diekrithete* means to make a distinction mentally, to discriminate, judge, to be partial.

One of the greatest sins that has and continues to plague the Church of Christ and the Christian is favoritism. From the Greek word *prosopolempsiais*, meaning: partiality, favoritism, respect of persons, snobbery.

*For God does not show favoritism.  
- Romans 2:11*

## According to John 13:34-35, what is the defining Mark of the Christian?

Favoritism takes many forms, and may not be just an issue of rich and poor. Education, race, social position, or employment have all created the same problems within church bodies. We all need to be aware of favoritism's influence upon our actions and attitudes. No one should think that they are immune from such views.

## If our faith doesn't make a difference in the way we treat people, has our faith made any difference at all?

## How does verse 4 compare with 1 Samuel 16:7?

In verse 5 reminds them that God has chosen the poor. James tells them to "Listen (Greek *akousate*, meaning to use the faculty of hearing, exhortation to consider what is or has been said, to pay attention) to this fact. If they would have looked around for themselves this fact would have been obvious. There is a humbling effect when you don't have much and have to accept help from others. (Luke 6:20)

## What is Jesus saying in the parable: Matthew 25:36-46?

V. 8 - James now tells us that one reason why we shouldn't show favoritism is because of the "Royal Law"  
Look up: Leviticus 19:18, Leviticus 19:34

## Why does James refer to this as the "Royal Law" in verse 8? Look up: Matthew 22:36-40

According to verse 9, favoritism is clearly defined as\_\_\_\_\_.  
Should a "New Creature" in Christ, be guilty of such behavior? We are often repeat offenders of the "Royal Law"? Take a quiet moment to think about those, perhaps in your very congregation, who you've sinned against in such a way.

I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you  
- Psalm 119:11

## If we who are saved recognize sin in our lives, what should our response be? Look up: Corinthians 15:33-34

While Christians are not under the Law that was given in the Old Testament, we are to still speak and act according to the law of love written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We violate this principle when we show favoritism.

V.12 – James includes a solemn warning. The Law of liberty/freedom (the gospel) frees us from the curse of the Law, so therefore we should be free to love and obey willingly. This is the higher standard to which we will be held.

V. 13 - There is coming a time when believers will all give account for their actions at the Judgment Seat of Christ.  
Look up: 2 Corinthians 5:10

If we know that we will all give an account before the Lord for how we have treated others; for what we have said and done, how ought that to affect our behavior? Look up: Matthew 7:1-2