

FAITH MAKES A DIFFERENCE... IN RELATIONSHIPS

James 2:1-13

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October 4, 2015

Common Areas of Discrimination:

- ❖ Jesus' love and compassion did not respond to externals. Jesus responded to hearts; and if we are His followers, by faith so must we.

I. THE PRINCIPLE

"My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory."

James 2:1

II. THE PROBLEM

"For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' while you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there,' or, 'Sit down at my feet,' have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?"

James 2:2-4

A. Favoritism is Evil.

"Have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?"

James 2:4

B. Favoritism Reveals Erroneous Thinking.

"Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?"

James 2:5-7

C. Favoritism is Unloving and Unlawful.

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For He who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law."

James 2:8-11

D. Favoritism is Disastrous.

"So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment?"

James 2:12-13

I John 4:7-8. I John 4:19-21