

The Sin of Favoritism

James 2:1-13

A. The Command against Favoritism. 2:1

1. Those addressed:
2. The imperative:
 - a. Glory = ?
3. The unthinkable discrimination:
4. What favoritism does: It give glory that belongs to Jesus to a mere human being!

B. The Illustration of Favoritism. 2:2-4

1. The characters. 2:2
 - a. Wealthy man
 - b. Poor man
2. The discrimination. 2:3
 - a. Good seat
 - b. Poor seat
3. The verdict. 2:4
 - a. Distinctions.
 - b. Judges with evil motives.
4. We are tempted to honor to others for superficial reasons.
 - a. Wealth
 - b. Power
 - c. Celebrity
 - d. Skill
 - e. Beauty
5. When we value someone because of their celebrity status, we have become like a crooked judge with evil motives.

C. The Senselessness of Favoritism. 2:5-7

1. The worth of the poor man. 2:5
 - a. Rich in faith
 - b. Heirs of the kingdom

2. God's choice. 1 Cor. 1:26-29
 - a. Not many wise, mighty, or noble
 - b. God has chosen
 - 1) foolish things
 - 2) weak things
 - 3) base things
 - 4) the despised
 - 5) the things that are not
 - c. So no one can boast
 - d. Thankful for the letter "M":
3. Their disgrace of the poor man. 2:6
4. Their exploitation by the rich. 2:6-7
 - a. They oppress you
 - b. They drag you into court
 - c. They blaspheme the good name by which you have been called.

D. The Scriptures and Favoritism. 2:8-13

1. Fulfilling the "Kingly Law" is good ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself.") (Lev. 19:8) 2:8
2. If you show favoritism, you transgress the Law. 2:9
3. If you break one part of the Law, you break the whole Law! 2:10-11
4. Anticipate evaluation. 2:12-13
 - a. Behave as those who will be judged by a Law that brings Freedom. 2:12
 - * The New Covenant that softens my heart & makes me want to obey.
 - b. Judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy. 2:13
 - c. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

It is wrong to treat someone special just because they are a celebrity. The only celebrity worth special treatment is Jesus!

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1. Those addressed: _____
2. The imperative: _____
 - a. Glory = ? _____
3. The unthinkable discrimination: _____
4. What favoritism does: It give _____ that belongs to _____ to a mere human being!

B. The Illustration of Favoritism. 2:2-4

1. The characters. 2:2
 - a. _____ man
 - b. _____ man
2. The discrimination. 2:3
 - a. _____ seat
 - b. _____ seat
3. The verdict. 2:4
 - a. D _____.
 - b. _____ with _____ motives.
4. We are tempted to honor to others for superficial reasons.
 - a. W _____
 - b. P _____
 - c. C _____
 - d. S _____
 - e. B _____
5. When we value someone because of their _____ status, we have become like a crooked _____ with evil _____.

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 - a. Rich in _____

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 - a. Not many wise, mighty, or noble
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 - 1) _____ things
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 - c. So no one can _____
 - d. Thankful for the letter "M": _____
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 - a. They _____ you
 - b. They drag you into _____
 - c. They _____ the good name by which you have been called.

D. The Scriptures and Favoritism. 2:8-13

1. Fulfilling the "Kingly Law" is good ("_____") (Lev. 19:18) 2:8
2. If you show favoritism, you _____ the Law. 2:9
3. If you break _____ of the Law, you are guilty of the _____ Law! 2:10-11
4. Anticipate evaluation. 2:12-13
 - a. Behave as those who will be judged by a Law that brings _____. 2:12
* The New Covenant that _____ my heart & makes me _____ to obey. (Jer. 31:31-34)
 - b. Judgment will be _____ to one who has shown no _____. 2:13
 - c. _____ triumphs over _____.

It is wrong to treat someone _____ just because they are a celebrity. The only celebrity worth special treatment is _____!