

FAVORITISM

JAMES 2:1-13

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Favoritism is the pretty little word with the violent past. It is a code of acceptance that man has created; and when it is in full bloom, it can be a spark that sets the “fires of hell” at work on earth. Favoritism diminishes the work of the church.

MISJUDGES GOD’S CREATION. Each person alive is “fearfully and wonderfully” made by God and created in His image. Jesus showed how much each one of us is loved by giving His life for us when He died on the cross to pay for our sins. To think differently is evil. (James 2:1-7, fn 2:1-7, fn 2:5, Genesis 1:26, 27, fn 1:26[2nd], fn 1:27, I Samuel 16:7, fn 16:7, Romans 15:7, fn 15:5-7, John 3:16, fn 3:16[1st], I John 2:2, fn 2:2[2nd]) *In your relationship with people, why is it important to identify yourself with the powerless?*

IS SIN. God’s love for you is unconditional, and with Christ in you, you are to love others unconditionally. To do otherwise is sin. (James 2:8-11, fn 2:13, Leviticus 19:18, Luke 10:27-37, fn 10:27-37, I John 3:11-18, fn 3:15, fn 3:17, 18) *How does favoritism break the royal law?*

IS DEFEATED BY MERCY. Mercy is tender compassion given to you by God as the His “foundation for forgiveness.” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, p. 1106. You can give mercy because you have received mercy. “When a man lives without mercy to others in God’s world, he simply shows off the fact that he himself has never responded aright to the immeasurable mercy of God.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James, p. 117. (James 2:12, 13, fn 2:13, Matthew 5:7, Matthew 18:23-35, fn 18:35, Ephesians 2:10, fn 2:10, I John 2:6, fn 2:6) *Why is a critical, judgmental attitude wrong and how could you avoid having it?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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