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 **Who’s Playing Favorites?**

 **James 2:1-13**

James introduces a serious issue that had been going on in the church and is still going on in many churches today. It is clear from the passage that the church was struggling with showing special favor to some, while treating others unfavorably.

**Favoritism defined** – the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.

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**Talking it over -Group discussion:**

1. Where are some areas in the church we see favoritism or the danger of favoritism creeping in?

**James 2:1-13**

1. Read the passage to yourself
2. If you’re in a group have someone read it out loud or have everyone read it out loud together.

**Bible Study Methods**



OBSERVATION – Make a list. What do you see that stands out in the passage? Look for key words, phrases, comparisons, or contrasts in the passage. What spiritual qualities do you see that would reflect a follower of Jesus?

****Helpful Notes: People in the church were showing special attention to those who were wealthy. What does James say the result of this was?

Have you not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_vs. 4

And become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_vs.4

These are strong condemnations from James. It shows the people were not thinking or acting as Christians but as the world acts. To discriminate is to treat one person better than another. As Christ followers we are all equal and not to be judged by one another based on possessions or wealth in this life. God does not show partiality and we are not to show it either.

“Judges with evil thoughts” – We are making judgments on God’s chosen when we favor one over another.

How does God view people?

But the Lord said to Samuel, *“Don’t look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.”* 1 Samuel 16:7

When we make judgments based on outward appearance we are not acting as God’s children. For the Lord does not look at people this way.

Question: How does a proper view of Christ help us see people in the correct way?



**INTERPRETATION – Ask a question:** What is the author’s main intent or purpose of the passage?



**APPLICATION – Put into practice**

* How can individuals and the church put into practice this teaching? How can we be on guard against showing favoritism within the church? Talk through this together as a group.



**Praying it through:** Take time in your group to pray for your church. Pray for wisdom int his area of favoritism and against the spirit of judging people based on externals. Pray that God helps us to see others as He sees us.



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