



JULY 25, 2010  
Week 2  
**FREEDOM FROM FAVORITISM**  
James 2:1-13

As we continue from the book of James, we come to a difficult topic: prejudice. It's easy for all of us to get caught in the trap of treating people only by the way they look on the outside.

James makes it very clear that the church is to be the one place where all class, racial and social barriers are broken down. As we look at this passage let's take an honest inventory of our hearts and conduct. Here is one more prescription for healthy relationships and strong souls.

**I. FAVORITISM DEFINED:**

- A. The word "favoritism" in vs:1 literally means: "to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_."
- B. An \_\_\_\_\_ of favoritism. (The near sighted usher)

**II. FAVORITISM CONDEMNED:**

- A. Favoritism is inconsistent with God's method of \_\_\_\_\_ others. Vs:5
- B. Favoritism is contrary to the \_\_\_\_\_. Vss:8
- C. Favoritism is a sin for it contains no \_\_\_\_\_ for others. Vss:9-10

**III. FREEDOM FROM FAVORITISM:** (Principles to Practice)

- A. We are to be free of \_\_\_\_\_ favoritism or prejudice.
- B. We are to be free of \_\_\_\_\_ favoritism or prejudice.
- C. We are to be free of \_\_\_\_\_ favoritism or prejudice.

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**James 2:1-6, 8-13**

My friends, you must never show favoritism, treating people differently according to their outward appearance.<sup>2</sup> For example, suppose a rich man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes comes to your meeting, and a poor man in ragged clothes also comes.<sup>3</sup> If you show more respect to the well-dressed man and say to him, "Have this best seat here," but say to the poor man, "Stand over there, or sit in the back over here,"<sup>4</sup> then you are guilty of creating distinctions among yourselves and of making judgments based on evil motives.

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear friends! God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

<sup>8</sup> You will be doing the right thing if you obey the law of the Kingdom, which is found in the scripture, "Love others, as you love yourself."<sup>9</sup> But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker.<sup>10</sup> Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all<sup>11</sup> For the same one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Even if you do not commit adultery, you have become a lawbreaker if you commit murder.<sup>12</sup> Speak and act as people who will be judged by the law that sets us free.<sup>13</sup> For God will not show mercy when he judges the person who has not been merciful; but the merciful will not fear God's judgment.