

## "The Evil of Favoritism in the Church"

James 2:1-13

May 4, 2014

James' exhortation to the church: Do not be guilty of the sin of showing favoritism. (v.1)

*Why? Two reasons:*

1. Favoritism is inconsistent with the Christian faith. (v.1)
2. Favoritism is inconsistent with Christ Himself. (v.1)

*Two major mistakes the church made in verses 2-4:*

1. They made the mistake of showing favoritism based on outward appearance.
2. They made the mistake of showing favoritism based on socioeconomic status.

The contradiction of verses 5-7: If the poor are so important to the Lord, how can they be so unimportant to us?

*Three warnings to a church showing favoritism:*

Warning #1: Showing favoritism violates the royal law of God.  
(v. 8-9)

Warning #2: Showing favoritism makes a person guilty of the whole law of God. (v.10)

Warning #3: Showing favoritism is just as serious a sin as adultery and murder in God's eyes. (v.11)

*Two judgments in scripture:*

1. The judgment of unbelievers. (Revelation 20:11-15)
2. The judgment of believers. (James 2:12; 1 Cor. 3)

*James offers the church two applications:*

1. Let the scriptures be your standard. (v.12,13)
2. Let love be your law. (v.8-13)