

Message Series: Faith Really Works – The Book of James

Today: Faith Really Works On Our Dirty Little Secret

Speaker: Ronnie Norman

James 2:1-13

¹ *My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.*

Favoritism = accepting and rejecting people based on differences that make no difference to God.

Romans 2:11

For God does not show favoritism.

² *Suppose someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor person in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the one wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the one who is poor, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

Favoritism is completely inconsistent with the DNA of Christ's church.

⁵ *Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?*

⁶ *But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?*

Favoritism is no small matter to God.

⁸ *If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.*

¹⁰ *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.*

¹² *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Solution: treat all and receive all like Jesus treats us.