

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

THE BOOK OF JAMES
FAVORITISM | JAMES 2:1-13
FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Favoritism contradicts the very heart of God. (Theological) James 2:1-5
2. Favoritism doesn't even make practical sense. (Practical) James 2:6-7
3. Favoritism is a sin that goes against God's law. (Moral) James 2:8-13

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Check for understanding: What's the law of liberty James mentions in v12? Where does it come from? Why is it called that? How does it differ from OT law?
2. Looking back at the passage and your notes, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
3. How might we show partiality in church, in small group, as we're serving, etc. in our actions? What could we do instead to honor everyone in these areas?
4. What things might we be tempted to give preferential treatment based on? Why are we tempted to favor those types of people? When, if ever, is it okay to make some assumptions or external judgements about someone or something (think about Pastor Dave's story about the phone call)? Is that different from favoritism? If so, how?
5. How would you define judging based on James 2? Dave gave several examples of what we shouldn't do (Never judge broadly Lk 6:42, Never judge motives 1 Sam 16:7, Never judge quickly 1 Cor 4:5, Never judge harshly Ja 2:13). How does this sort of judgement fit with the judgement mentioned in 1 Cor 5:12-13? Is it the same or different? Why or why not?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. Of the various facets of what it means not to judge which do you struggle the most with? Why? Knowing that, what do you need to do differently going forward?
2. Where do you see this idea of Humanism and "it's about me" creeping into and subtly influencing how you think about life, church, or God? What can you do to help combat that influence in your own life?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God that Jesus welcomes us despite our imperfections.
2. Pray that we would welcome others to City on a Hill without favoritism just like Jesus has welcomed us.
3. Ask God to change our sinful hearts and expose the root desires that lead us to show certain people preferential treatment instead of treating all of God's image bearers the same.