



inside out

A SERMON SERIES IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 5 — James' Favorite Law

_____ without _____ is inadequate for life
_____.

The purpose of James' letter is to expand on and explain how our faith is _____ to our actions.

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4, NIV

Favoritism means to _____ the _____, to allow your _____ observations of a person to _____ your opinion of them.

The damage of favoritism _____ just the person who is treated unfairly.

⁵Listen, 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? ⁶But 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? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

James 2:5-7, NIV

⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹For 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.

James 2:8-11, NIV

Favoritism _____ us from God and the blessed eternity with Him in His Kingdom.

_____ is marked by attitudes, behaviors, and choices that _____ the royal law of _____.

Sin's _____ within us means _____ existence without _____.

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

James 2:12-13, NIV

It doesn't matter in what capacity, favoritism _____ the Church.

We must _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the relationship between your belief in Jesus and your day-to-day actions?
2. What are the implications of mistreating the poor? (see Prov. 14:31)
3. Do you think it's possible to be rich and depend on God at the same time?
4. Why would James' describe the command to love as "royal"?
5. Who at home, school, or work needs to receive your mercy?
6. Which influences your favoritism towards people most? Least?
Possessions Presentation Profession
7. Where is the biggest need for mercy in Lakewood, CO?
8. How can *YOU* keep favoritism from damaging the Church?