Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. May 6, 2018

**Warning:** No Favoritism Allowed

James 2:1-13

**Key truth:** The way we behave toward people reflects what we really believe about God.

**The Sin of Favoritism:**  
1. It violates the character of God. Deuteronomy 10:17, Galatians 2:6,

Ephesians 6:9

A. God is not interested in the exterior, but the interior.

1 Samuel 16:6-7, Jeremiah 17:10

2. It makes false assumptions about a person’s value.

3. We begin to judge others with evil intent.

4. The danger is when we see people as tools to be used rather

than people to be loved.

5. Favoritism can easily become discriminations.

**Favoritism in the Church:**

1. Favoritism has no place in the church.

A. The church is the one place where everyone is to be treated

with equal love and concern.

B. A person’s net worth doesn't determine their kingdom

worth.

2. Christianity makes no distinction between poor and rich.

A. We are equally sinners.

B. We have equal value before God.

C. We are all made in the image of God.

D. Salvation is equally available to us all. Romans 1:16

**How to Overcome the sin of Partiality:**

1. Treat others how you want to be treated. Matthew 22:34-40

2. Do good to everyone not just those who can do something for

you.

3. View people the way God sees them.

4. Don’t let preferences become your prejudices.

5. Let mercy be your message.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Ask God to show you any hidden prejudice in your life so that you can repent. Ask the Spirit to help you see people as God does and love others as Jesus did.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Would you say that you are good at first impressions? Have you ever made a snap judgement against someone based on a first impression?

James said partiality is wrong because it is inconsistent with God’s character. Read the following verses and take notice of God’s character: Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Colossians 3:25; Deuteronomy 1:17, and 16:19. Who do the Scriptures reveal God to be?

In what area of your life would it be most challenging to follow God’s example of not playing favorites?

One of the ways we can avoid favoritism is to learn to appreciate people who are more challenging for us to get along with and to strive to see them in a different light. Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and write down Paul’s instruction about how we can bridge some of our differences and unify in Christ.

Which of these behaviors presents the biggest challenge to you if you were to put all the behaviors in the above verses into action?

One of the more subtle ways of evaluating our personal relationship with God is taking a look at how we treat his people. What do the following verses have to say about how our treatment of others impacts our relationship with God?

John 13:35

1 John 3:17

1 John 4:12

1 John 4:20