

“The Spirit of Favoritism”

James 2:1-13

I. Favoritism in the church is wrong (v. 1-4)

A. Our faith in Jesus unites us into one family

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

B. Jesus is our example of never showing favoritism

“For God does not show favoritism.” (Romans 2:11)

C. Jesus is our example of one who was treated unfairly

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.” (Isaiah 53:3)

D. We should never judge based on outward appearance

“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.” (John 7:24)

E. We should not treat people differently based on our judgment

F. To show favoritism is to be an evil judge

“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?” (James 4:12)

II. Favoritism is an insult to those who are ignored (v. 5-7)

A. The poor are valuable in the eyes of God

B. The rich are called to never exploit others

C. To show favoritism is to hurt the cause of Jesus

III. Favoritism is inconsistent with the word of God (v. 8-11)

A. We are called to love others

B. To show favoritism is a sin

“I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.” (I Timothy 5:21)

C. To sin in any way is serious

IV. Favoritism should be avoided because of future judgment (v. 12-13)

A. The future judgment should motivate us to end favoritism

B. Favoritism is evidence of an unmerciful spirit

C. We should always show mercy to all

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)