



SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT

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Wednesday, 02/16/2022

Scripture: James 2:1

TITLE: Who's Your Favorite?

Let's face it, favoritism stinks. Playing favorites happens all the time. And it's only fun if you're the favorite. But everyone else sees it and it makes them sick. Siblings are broken when a favorite is revealed. A people group experiences prejudice when ignored by another group. Players are disheartened when they can never do enough. Churches are split when loyalty is favored over truth.

Favoritism and partiality may be a way of the world but has no place in the Kingdom of God. Here's what James says about it in James 2:1 (CSB).

My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

This series is called faith in real life. James is Christianity 101. Yes, it's theological, but it's practical in a unique way. James has been talking about trials, how to respond to them, and the outworking of our faith in some very revealing ways.

James continues in a caring fashion by saying, "brothers and sisters." It's the kind and loving expression of a parent to a child. It's like, "Hey, I care about you. So please, listen up." Your life and words reveal your heart. So if you're a child of God, you must not show favoritism.

One of the common discussions today is over racism. Racism is favoritism on steroids with some very gross and disturbing behaviors. When you treat a person better or worse because of their background, skin color, education, economic status, or anything in between, you're violating the love of God in you.

Yes, we should use discernment when treating and judging someone, but partiality on these kinds of factors is ungodly and unbiblical. But we see it on the football field, on the basketball court, in the church office, in the neighborhood, at home, and virtually everywhere else. And many times, it is unintentional. But regardless of the reasons or circumstances, we should treat everyone with respect, compassion, and fairness.

Fairness does not mean equality. But it does mean right. Should we show honor and respect to those of authority or eldership at church and in society? Absolutely, Moses said so in Leviticus 19:32. Paul said to appreciate and esteem their pastors.

But to judge or honor someone based on superficial reasons is not what we should do.

So here's my challenge for you today. Admit your favoritism and begin to make things right. I'm not talking about something corporate here. I'm talking about how you, as a follower of Christ, have intentionally treated someone poorly or specially because of something superficial. Confess it to God. Apologize if appropriate. And then ask God to give you heart for treating people as God treats them.

When we do life God's way, we will win the day.