



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christian, Don't Show Favoritism! **September 21-23, 2019**

(James 2:1-10) 1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 If 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," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers: 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? 6 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

1. Who is the most famous celebrity you've ever met? What did you do to meet him/her?

2. In vv. 2-3, James gives an example of a congregation "showing favoritism." How might that show in a congregation today?

3. Agree/disagree: It is a sin to give special attention to wealthy people.

4. Give an example of how you have "pre-judged" someone on the basis of...

- Skin color
- Nationality
- Employment
- Family

5. What sins were involved in such prejudice?

6. In vv. 5-7, James gives three reasons why it made no sense for the congregation to show favoritism to the rich. What are his reasons? Is the same thing true today?

7. God's Law is like the rear window of an automobile. How so? How does this fact affect your life?

8. How did Jesus fix your "broken window?" (cf. 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 John 1:7b)

9. How is your attitude toward others impacted by Jesus' love for you? For them?

10. What would be the right/wrong way to treat visitors to Mount Olive's worship service?

For further discussion: Agree/disagree: Mount Olive is "showing favoritism" by practicing close communion.

Please contact pastor.raasch@mountoliveappleton.com if you...

_____ want to receive the answers for this Life Guide.

_____ are interested in joining a Life Group.

_____ would consider hosting/leading your own Life Group.