

Week of October 16 - "No Favoritism" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 6

Connect

"Dress the way you want to be *addressed*," is a famous saying that is often quoted. Do you believe this is sound advice or bad advice? Why?

Verses - James 2:1-7 (CSB)

1 My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. 2 For if someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor person dressed in filthy clothes also comes in, 3 if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor person, "Stand over there," or "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," 4 haven't you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 Yet you have dishonored the poor. Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into court? 7 Don't they blaspheme the good name that was invoked over you?

Study

1. James is warning us about favoritism. Is the location of it an issue? Why or why not? (1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 2:11; John 13:35)

2. What are the two resulting problems that are caused by showing favoritism mentioned in v.4? How are these unbiblical behaviors, and how "bad" are they? (Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:13; Matthew 7:1)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What is the best course of action if you have hurt someone by showing favoritism to another/others and thereby ignoring them? (1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:23-24; James 5:16)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** In TBC Class 101 we teach: "We function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not elected offices." How is this beneficial in not showing favoritism at TBC?

3. According to James, what kind of people were shown favoritism? What was the issue that they were who they were, or was it something more? (2 Corinthians 6:14; James 4:4)

🏃 **APPLY 2:** Do you think the Bible encourages or discourages relationships with rich people? Why? (1 Timothy 2:4; Galatians 3:28-29; Proverbs 22:2)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** Why do you think affluence and poverty causes such a divide among people? What have you done in your relationships or ministries to prevent that from happening?

Share

Why is it important to maintain unity within the church? What is the danger if we do not have unity? How can we combat unity as a church? According to class 101, we should downplay differences, and therefore promote… *what*? (Ephesians 4:3)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the unity of our church.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel this week.
- Pray for the Ministry Fair coming up on Oct. 16th (Oct. 30th if rain).