

**“Favoritism: Against God’s Call to
Welcome”**

James 2: 1 - 9

**Favoritism: Funny how so many people
say it isn't fair, but yet most of
them are the 1st to display it and the 1st
to deny it...**

James 2 We are all bias

What school will you not allow to attend?

James 2 We are all bias

What job will you not allow your children
to work in?

James 2 We are all bias

Who will I not allow my children to marry?

**‘Average salary of recent NorthWestern
Graduates rising’ (June, 2015)**

Favoritism is based on Wealth:

How we treat people

Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old 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," (vv 2, 3)

Favoritism is based on Wealth:
How we treat people

What is Favoritism?

“Prosopolempsia” –

NT: Lifting up the face

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show [favoritism](#).

Value or evaluate people purely by superficial external characteristics
(by “face”)

See People

看人

See Face

看面

面子

many asian cultures
are guided by the
concept of 'face'

#1 Reveals who's your true God?

“believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.” (v 1)

Jesus did not show favoritism.

He was rich but became poor (2 Cor 8: 9)

True glory is in terms of what Jesus has done
for us.

#1 Reveals who's our true God?

“believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.” (v 1)

Favoring rich would treat wealth more desirable than Jesus, therefore not compatible to Faith.

#2 Reveals our real mindset

“have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts” (v 4)

**#3 Reveals our Evil
Favoritism is evil & Sinful
Reinforces exploitation, abuse &
blasphemy**

“But you have dishonored 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 blaspheming the
noble name of him to whom you belong?” (vv 6, 7)*

#4 Reverses God's Compassion for the Poor
5 *Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: 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? (v 5)*

The poor has a special place in God's heart.

- Poor matters to no one else except to God.
- Poor excluded from many privileges but God has chosen to inherit His Kingdom.

“I speak to everyone in the same way,
whether he is the garbage man or the
president of the university.”

Albert Einstein

Conclusion

The Key is Royal Law:

“Love your neighbor as yourself”

you really keep the royal law found in Scripture,

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.’

(v 8)

It’s not about rich or poor!

It’s about LOVING and DOING it right

Love Thy Neighbor

Thy Homeless Neighbor

Thy Muslim Neighbor

Thy Black Neighbor

Thy Gay Neighbor

Thy White Neighbor

Thy Jewish Neighbor

Thy Christian Neighbor

Thy Atheist Neighbor

Thy Racist Neighbor

Thy Addicted Neighbor

Conclusion

- 1. Recognize we all have prejudices*
- 2. Deal with our prejudices by caring for the poor*
- 3. Having a Heart for God by Loving all*

Abe Pierre
Founder of Emmaus
“Repeatedly voted
Most popular man in
France”

Today:
350 Charity Organizations, 35 Countries

**A smile costs less than
electricity,
but gives much light**

**Post-WW II, Jesuit Priest,
Parliamentarian**

Couldn't serve homeless beggars

**Unusually cold winter,
many beggars died**

“My friends, help me, A woman has just frozen to death at three this morning, on the pavement of the Boulevard Sebastopol, clutching the document by which she was expelled from her home the day before ...”

Reorganize beggars help themselves.
Collect old bottles, unused food
To resell

No more beggars

“Organization will become big,
powerful & have no one to serve.”

“Organization will die.”

**Went to India.
Found leper colony, Flew ex-
beggars to rebuild hospital.
Administrator were very grateful.
“I should thank you.....”**

If we don't serve, we die!

**It's not enough to attend church and pray every Sunday;
you have to act.**

- Abbe Pierre -

**“Serve others who are less than
yourself before you serve
yourself. Serve the least first.”**

“ At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by: I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.”