

James 2:1-13 | Favoritism**James 2:1-4**

Favoritism is the first of twelve themes. It is significant to note the “unforming” needed for the church from its culture and times. We explored the role of patronal relationships and the practice of reciprocity. While not automatically negative or manipulative culturally, this is key context to why the church engages the wealthy (and poor) the way they were.

- What cultural areas of our life shape us toward a favoritism or using of people? Who is overlooked in our church? World?
- In v. 1, how does the CSB’s “as you hold on to the faith” impact your view of faith? Compare translations.

The Poor in God’s Kingdom (vv. 5-7)

In contrast to the above, how does God view (and us!) the poor in Job 34:19, 1 Corinthians 1:27, Luke 12:21, Rom 12:11?

Love & Maturing Perfection (vv 8-11)

James is applying the Kingdom vision of the Sermon on the Mount. Compare this section and Matthew 5:46-48. As “perfect” (and the “fulfill” of Jas 2:8) is also the root word translated “mature” (teleios; nothing lacking, whole), how do you experience or understand the interaction of love and “be perfect (or fully mature)?”

Speak & Act (vv 12-13)

Explore if the “speak and act” is a parallel to the conversation of “hearer and doer” of 1:22.

Practice It

James reminds us not to forget the kind of person you are (1:23-24) which is part of our application of the lenses of abide, mature toward, and serve. What’s a practical step for addressing your own favoritism in one of these? (See the end of the sermon for ideas.)

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