

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James
Part 4: James 2:1-12: Warning Against Favoritism**

**Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Facilitator: Pastor Bimbola Lawore**

Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Key Texts	Topic
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing and Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship of Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

Introduction:

In chapter 1 of the book of James we discussed in depth what are trials and temptations; and how we should respond to suffering as believers (vs 1-18). We also discussed the importance of knowing, understanding and doing God's word (vs 19 – 27). Today we continue our study of the book of James as we delve into chapter 2, we continue with Apostle James's discourse to the Jewish believers to live out an exemplary life of Christlikeness in their dealing with people of different status as he addresses the issue of favoritism.

Warning Against Favoritism:

James 2: 1-4 “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² 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,” ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?”

Question:

- **What Is Favoritism?**
- **Does Favoritism Still Exist Amongst Today's Believers?**

⇒ James decided to write on the issue of favoritism because prejudice, partiality was a norm in the society at that time, people were categorized as jew or gentiles, slave or free, rich or poor, greek or barbarian and treated differently. James wanted to ensure that such norms and customs does not find its way among the early believers because that is not what Christ taught or demonstrated to them.

- Favoritism is inconsistent with Christ's teaching. **John 15:12-15**
- Favoritism results from evil thoughts

James 2:5-7 “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? 6 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?”

⇒ God’s way of seeing things is very different from the human’s viewpoint. **Luke 6:20, 1 Corinthians 1:26-28, Matthew 5:3**

- Favoritism insults people made in God’s image.
- Favoritism is a by-product of selfish motives

Question:

What is the difference between Favoritism and Honor?

James 2:8-11 “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. 11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.”

⇒ God will judge us on how we treat people in our lives, we must truly understand God’s definition of love. **Galatians 5:14, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:36-40**

- Favoritism goes against the biblical definition of love
- Favoritism is a sin.

Discussion: Character, Charisma, Credentials.

James 2:12-13 “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

⇒ God expects us to be the salt and light in our world, we must not only talk about the word, but we must also live out the word. We will be rewarded when we live a life free of favoritism, we will receive mercy from God when we show mercy to others, **Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 5:7. 2 Corinthians 5:10**

- Favoritism is being hypocritical
- Favoritism shows a lack of mercy to those less fortunate

Conclusion:

Ponder on today’s lesson and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to remove cultural and societal influence that affects how you see people and how you treat people. Pray that God will help you to eliminate every form of prejudice that is hidden in your heart, pray that you will see all people through the lens of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16 “So from now on we regard no one from a human point of view [according to worldly standards and values]. Though we have known Christ from a human point of view, now we no longer know Him in this way.” (AMP)

2 Corinthians 5:16 “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. (NKJV)