

# The Sin of Favoritism

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 2, 2015

## [James 2:1-10, 14-17](#)

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. 11-13... 14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

God is trying to teach us that...

## I. LIFELESS FAITH IS WORTHLESS

v. 17 faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

## [Eph 2:10](#)

We are God's workmanship (masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God is trying to teach us that...

## 2. FAVORITISM IS SIN

v. 1 ... as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.

v. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

God is trying to teach us that...

## 3. AUTHENTIC FAITH IS CHRIST-LIKE

### [Phil 2:5-11](#)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.