

## Faith Takes Grit: God's Love Shows No Partiality

James 2:1-13

Josh Weidmann

Avoid the sin of favoritism. - vv. 1-4

1. How/where do you show favoritism in your life? How/where can you be judgmental? Why is favoritism a sin? Why shouldn't we show favoritism?
2. Do you allow yourself to be uncomfortable, with others who are different from you, for the sake of the gospel? What does/might that look like for you?

By favoring others, you miss the heart of God - vv. 5-7

1. If you miss the heart of God, what blessings might you miss out on?
2. What does Luke 6: 23-33 say about this?
3. What does James 2:5-7 and Luke 6:32-33 look like in your life?

Unconditional love fulfills the royal law. - vv. 9-10

1. The royal law is the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Bible. How did Jesus Christ fulfill the royal law? What does fulfilling the royal law look like in your own life? How well do you fulfill it?
2. Unconditional love: Name all the types of people that you can show favoritism towards **or** that you cast judgment towards. **Make a list.** How can you start to show unconditional love towards these individuals? (Hint: one way starts with P and ends with Y and you can ask that God start to do a work in your own heart). But what are some specific/concrete ways to show unconditional love in your day-to-day lives.

Love others in light of God's future judgement. – vv. 11-13

1. Read Matt 5:7 and James 2:11-13 and using those passages unpack this quote: "God's gracious acceptance of us does not end our obligation to obey him, but begins it."
2. Are you "exclusive" in any way in your actions and behavior here at Grace Chapel? Are you welcoming, to others, in your "group" (Community Life Group, Sunday Adult Community, friendship group, etc.). Ask others that know you well, really well, to speak into this with you.

### **Extra Credit Assignment:**

Remember: this WAS NOT a message about homelessness. It was a message about loving others unconditionally, showing favoritism, and/or being partial to a certain group of people based on status, wealth (lack thereof), looks, clothing, tattoos, piercings, hairstyles, etc. (take a trip to the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall sometime.....)

But, a question that was asked several times, in the lobby, after each service was, "How **can we** reach out to and help the homeless who are on the street corners and are flying signs?"

A very practical way to help would be: Pack a large (gallon size) zip-lock baggie, or a mesh laundry bag with: a bottle of water, some SOFT granola/breakfast bars, some socks and/or mittens/gloves, a gift card to McDonalds (or other fast food), and fresh Jalapenos (REALLY!!!! Most who live on the street LOVE them!) and keep these packed bags in the car. Go ahead and them out to those on corners, at the exit ramps, etc. blessing them via Matthew 10:32. Pray for them. Make eye contact with them. Let your children help you pack the bags. Let your children hear you pray for the individual when you hand it to them. Remember: That individual is created in the image of God just as you are. Treat them with LOVE, HONOR, and RESPECT.