



PLAYING FAVORITES

February 22, 2026 // James 2:1-13 // Dr. Ron Jones

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. JAMES 2:1 NAS

Education

Appearance

MARITAL STATUS

Religion

Gender

Race

WEALTH

Rank

Politics

AGE

Playing favorites in the church _____ against
others created in the same _____.

The Foolishness of Favoritism

1. Favoritism makes us _____.

... have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? JAMES 2:2-4; MATTHEW 7:1

2. Favoritism reflects _____.

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? JAMES 2:5-7 ESV

3. Favoritism means we fail to _____.

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

JAMES 2:8-11 ESV

4. Favoritism shows _____.

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. JAMES 2:12-13 ESV