

<sup>[1]</sup> *My brothers, hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism.*  
<sup>[2]</sup> *For suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring, dressed in fine clothes, and a poor man dressed in dirty clothes also comes in. <sup>[3]</sup> If you look with favor on the man wearing the fine clothes so that you say, “Sit here in a good place,” and yet you say to the poor man, “Stand over there,” or, “Sit here on the floor by my footstool,” <sup>[4]</sup> haven’t you discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

[James 2:1-4 (HCSB)]<sup>1</sup>

Did you take time to notice how James chapter two begins? It begins with James calling ALL who were reading this letter “*My brethren*”. The Holy Spirit then moved James to say,

*... hold your FAITH in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ WITHOUT SHOWING FAVORITISM.*

The implication is that if someone is your brother or sister in Christ, you should not favor one of them above any of the others. After all, did not our Lord Jesus Christ love all people enough to die for their sins.

Our English noun “FAVORITISM” is the Greek noun προσωποληψία (prosōpolapeseeah),<sup>2</sup> which comes from the Greek verb προσωποληπτέω (prosōpolapetehō),<sup>2</sup> and which has the meanings of ‘to accept or respect persons’, that is ‘to show partiality or FAVORITISM.’ Therefore, prosōpolapeseeah has the meanings of showing ‘partiality’ or ‘favoritism’ or ‘respecting’ one person above another.

Know this, that God also commanded the judges of Israel to not show *FAVORITISM* when they judged the people. In Deuteronomy 1:16-17 Moses says he, “... *charged*” the nations judges saying,

*“Hear the cases between your fellow countrymen, and judge righteously between a man and his fellow countryman, or the alien who is with him. You are not to show partiality in judgment; you are to hear the small and the great alike. You are not to fear man, for the judgment is God’s.”*

Unfortunately, through the years, the Jews did not keep this command!

However, if you are a disciple of Christ, you cannot have FAITH in Jesus, and at the same time show FAVORITISM to one brother or sister in Christ above others. Remember, in Hebrews 1:1-2,8 God [the Father] speaking to us of [Jesus] the Son, calls Him “*God*”. I say this because in Philippians 2:5-6 we are ‘commanded’ to have the same “*attitude in*” ourselves,

*...which was also in Christ Jesus Who, although He existed in the form of God, DID NOT REGARD EQUALITY with God SOMETHING TO BE GRASPED....*

If this is the attitude Jesus had, then who are we to show FAVORITISM for one person over another?

Peter came to understand this when the Holy Spirit sent him to the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius. Listen to what Peter said in Acts 10:34-35

*... “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show FAVORITISM, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.*

<sup>1</sup> Holman Christian Standard Bible® copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005 by Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> “Favoritism” is the Greek noun προσωποληψία (prosōpolapeseeah), Strong’s Greek dictionary noun number 4382, which comes from the Greek verb προσωποληπτέω (prosōpolapetehō) NT:4380.

Peter here learned that as a disciple of Christ He had to lay aside all prejudice that he had harbored toward others. You also as a disciple of Christ need to lay aside from your heart any and all prejudices you have. Whether race, color, social status, favoritism, or any other unjust distinctions you have of others. These, you must lay aside! Why? Because these are all inconsistent with having the same attitude which Christ has!

Concerning these prejudices which lead to showing *FAVORITISM* consider Galatians 3:27-29 where you are taught,

<sup>[27]</sup> For all of you who were baptized [immersed in water] into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>[28]</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>[29]</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Now listen again to James 2:2-4. Listen closely as you learn why you should not show *FAVORITISM*.

<sup>[2]</sup> For suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring, dressed in fine clothes, and a poor man dressed in dirty clothes also comes in. <sup>[3]</sup> If you look with favor on the man wearing the fine clothes so that you say, "Sit here in a good place," and yet you say to the poor man, "Stand over there," or, "Sit here on the floor by my footstool," <sup>[4]</sup> haven't you discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Did you hear the two reasons why *FAVORITISM* is a testing of your *FAITH*? The first is *DISCRIMINATION*, which is an *OFFENSE* against a brother or sister. As well as here in James 2:1 you are told three times that "there is no *DISCRIMINATION* with God" [Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25]. Since, "there is no *DISCRIMINATION* with God", the second reason is that *DISCRIMINATION*, comes out from one's own "evil thoughts" from which someone evilly judges someone else.

Remember, in John 7:24 the Lord Jesus instructs you saying,

*"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*

Lord willing, please meet me here again Tomorrow when we will consider what James teaches about our *FAITH* being "Tested by: *One's Attitude of Favoritism Toward Other People – Part Two!*

Will you please now join me in prayer?

O LORD, God, I give You thanksgiving Today that You have revealed to us that if we show favoritism or discriminate; we have made ourselves evil judges. I pray You teach us to not judge according to appearance, but to judge all people with righteous judgement. Because You have taught these truths to us Today, I give You this thanksgiving in the name of Jesus my Lord. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*SINCE GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM OR DISCRIMINATE,  
WHO AM I TO SHOW FAVORITISM OR DISCRIMINATE! – tom.*