

# “The Greatest Barrier to World-Changing Christianity”

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 **James 2:1-13** (page 854-855 in the pew Bible)

## ♥ How we **live** reflects what we believe

### I. Favoritism:

#### 1. Makes **Worldly Distinctions** (vs. 1-4)

*But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7*

#### 2. Is **Against the Heart of God** (vs. 5-7)

*“For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.” Deuteronomy 10:17*

*“Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” Proverbs 31:9*

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though He was rich, for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9*

#### 3. **Contradicts the Gospel**

*“A merely religious person who believes God will favor him because of his morality and respectability will surely have contempt for the outcast. I worked hard for where I am and surely can anyone else. That is the attitude of the moralist heart. The heart transformed by the gospel says I am only where I am because of the unmerited mercy of God and therefore I am equal to all other men. If you want to see who’s grasped grace, it will be expressed for how we treat and minister to the needy.” Tim Keller*

### II. The Seriousness of Favoritism: As Serious as **Murder and Adultery** (vs. 8-11)

### III. James’ Appeal: Show Others the Same **Sacrificial Love** God has Shown You (vs. 12-13)

*“Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy” Matthew 5:7*

### Application: What will our **legacy** be?