A Faith that Works

# Real Faith Loves

James 2:1-13

**Overview**

James offers a hypothetical scenario of favoritism as an example of how people act out of step with God’s heart. We become judges with evil thoughts when we take it upon ourselves to ascribe value rather than exhibit the love of Christ for each other.

**Notes**

1. Show no partiality (vv 1-4)
   1. Goes against God’s heart (vv 5-6)
   2. Rich are persecuting you (vv 6-7)
2. Love your neighbor as yourself (vv 8-9)
   1. Love as fulfillment of the law (vv 10-11)
   2. Joyful obedience b/c of freedom in Christ (vv 12-13)

**Personal Application**

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

**Reflection Questions**

1. Why do people normally show favoritism? What are some motivations behind it?
2. Who might the man in fine clothes and the man in shabby clothes be in our society today?
3. How might we fall into the trap of favoritism/prejudice in the church today? How do we guard against it?
4. How are showing mercy and being impartial linked?
5. Why should believers especially be willing to look beyond the surface?
6. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10. How does it relate to James 2:1-13?
7. What difference would be made in the world if the church fully obeyed this passage?