

Sunday, November 7, 2021

**Sermon Series:**  
**James: A Practical Faith that Works**

**Title: “The Roses and Whiskers Principle”**

**Text: James 2:1-9**

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**Big Idea:** In our connection with others, both in and out of the church, we must never allow our actions toward others to be determined by what we think we can get from them.

**How does partiality get in the way of God’s intended mission?**

- 1) Partiality is inconsistent with **God’s character**. (James 2:1-3 / Deuteronomy 10:17-18 / Leviticus 19:15)
- 2) Partiality is inconsistent with **sound judgment**. (James 2:4)
- 3) Partiality is inconsistent with **compassion** for the poor. (James 2:5-7 / I Corinthians 1:28-29 / James 2:8-9)

**Biblical practical ways to overcome favoritism:**

- 1) **Accept** others. (Romans 15:7)
- 2) **Appreciate** others. (Philippians 2:3-4)
- 3) **Affirm** others. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

**Conclusion:**

We are most like our Lord when we view others through His eyes of grace and compassion rather than through attitudes of self-justified prejudice.

**Study/Application Questions and Actions:**

- 1) Name some of your favorite things and think about how some of them might accidentally make you feel superior to those who don’t share your opinion.
- 2) To what kind of person are you tempted to give special favor? To what kind of person are you most tempted to be dismissive? Why?
- 3) Which examples from Jesus’ life are most motivating to you for dealing with attitudes of personal favoritism?
- 4) Do you agree that the poor of this world tend to become richer in faith without the distraction of material things? How can an American believer balance the culture of excess, in which we live, with the right attitude of giving?
- 5) Since favoritism is an actual sin, what are the most practical and Biblical steps for dealing with it in your life?