

Faith that Works: Living Out of Your Beliefs
No Favorites: Breakdown Barriers with Love

Heavenly Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

The Bible emphasizes breaking down barriers through love and treating everyone with equal respect.

"My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?"-James 2:1-4

Favoritism is not consistent with being a believer. As Christians and disciples we are not supposed to provide favoritism. I do not make friends with people that show favoritism. I want to share the true story that there is a lot of this at homeless shelters today. I want to be truthful and talk about how we should treat everyone equally. We should not provide favoritism in our families or inner circle. Favoritism and racism has no place in this nation. We see favoritism go on in politics today because politicians and individuals are trying to support a candidate for elected office. You see favoritism going on in homeless shelters because you have people making friends and meeting people the wrong way. It is like homeless men and women buy friends in today's society by becoming friends with people that can do the most for them. That is not how to make friends and homeless people need to learn more about favoritism and friendship. We need to stop treating each other differently based on their economic status. Police Officers need to stop treating homeless men and women poorly in public that has no place to go. It is shelters in this nation that allow people to leave at 6:00-7:00 PM. We must love all our neighbors equally and fairly. James highlights that showing preference to the rich and neglecting the poor is a form of discrimination and a sin. God does not judge based on appearance or social standing. As Christians and disciples, we need to value who they are and not the possessions they have or offer them. As Christians and disciples, we need to examine our hearts and minds for the kingdom to avoid providing favoritism. James in the scripture is telling Christians to avoid favoritism.

- It is a warning for showing favoritism and showing bias towards people and acting like a hater and instigator towards other people. We should be treating people in this country the same. We do not need to be judging people in this country and looking down at people. It is like politicians show favoritism towards special interest groups that will help them get reelected. It is like

George Soros shows favoritism for the Democrats in election to help more Democrats get elected to Congress. My advice to people like George Soros is that he needs to stop with the favoritism because he looked sinful and rather live in sin during midterm and presidential elections. George Soros needs to start letting Democrats and Democratic National Committee run their own races and contests for elections with their own outreach with constituents. I can understand why Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did not believe in electoral politics before helping JFK get elected to the White House because it is too much sinful nature and everything starts to become ungodly with favoritism, idolatry, divisiveness, bondage and temptation.

- As Christians and disciples, it is better to remove yourselves out of unequal environments that people are showing favoritism towards people over and over again. Individuals may not reach their full potential. It can erode trust between individuals and within the community. It can lead to a homogenous group.

The royal law directly prohibits favoritism, especially based on wealth or social status. James condemns this behavior, stating it is a sin and demonstrates a lack of genuine love. God loves everyone equally and offers salvation universally. Followers of Christ are called to reflect this impartiality in their interactions. The royal law, along with other biblical teachings, promotes justice and fairness for all. It encourages mercy and compassion, treating others with the same kindness and understanding desired for oneself. You commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. It is part of the "king" of all the commands in the Old Testament law, all obedience to the law can be summarized and fulfilled by expressions of love. The principle of treating others as one would want to be treated by them. Favoritism leads to retaliation is illegal.

What is favoritism?

1. Offering more understanding or forgiveness to one person.
2. Paying closer attention and engaging more deeply with one person's thoughts and feelings
3. Providing assistance or guidance to one person more readily than to others
4. Expressing positive emotions or admiration more frequently or prominently towards one individual.
5. Favoring certain employees with desirable assignments, training, or networking opportunities.
6. Offering more resources like equipment, budget, or staff support to some employees over others.
7. Providing guidance and support to some employees while neglecting others.
8. Sharing confidential or valuable information with a select few, while keeping others in the dark.
9. Favoring employees who are similar in background, personality, or interests
10. Focusing attention and resources on specific individuals or groups
11. Elevating certain individuals to leadership positions or roles based on personal preference
12. Providing more emotional or practical support to individuals who are perceived

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."-Galatians 3:28

Paul is writing to the Galatian Christians addressing their struggles with the relationship between faith and the law. Paul was speaking about spiritual unity and providing more unity among Christians. The verse explicitly mentions the elimination of distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, and

male and female. focuses on the spiritual reality that transcends these earthly divisions. This verse is part of a larger argument in Galatians where Paul is addressing the issue of whether Gentile believers need to follow Jewish law to be saved. He emphasizes that salvation comes through faith in Christ. As Christians and disciples, we need to live out our life with unity in Christ. I invite Muslims to come to Christ and stop believing in the Quran and what it says in the Quran.

1. Challenge preconceived notions
2. Embrace the new identity in Christ
3. See others as God sees them
4. Actively work to create environments where all feel welcome and included
5. Ensure that opportunities are available to all
6. Value the contributions and perspectives of everyone
7. Extend our grace and forgiveness
8. Serve with humility
9. Encourage and support one another in our shared journey of faith.
10. Create a community where all are valued and have a place to belong
11. Let your actions reflect the unity and love of Christ
12. Treat every individual with the dignity and respect that Christ has shown to us

“Then Peter began to speak: I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”-Acts 10:34-35

Peter is addressing Cornelius known as a Roman centurion and his household in Caesarea. Peter's speech reveals his newfound understanding that God does not show favoritism and accepts people from all nations who fear Him and do what is right. In the scripture, Cornelius is telling us that we can hear God when he is trying to communicate with us daily. I believe God speaks to me for your years after I got saved and baptized on September 4, 2011. We need to begin our days with prayer to keep our motivation to the Holy Spirit.

I believe homeless shelters need to establish evaluation methods among staff and overnight guests because I noticed in the past that staff provide favoritism to certain homeless men and women. It means that homeless shelter staff are spiritual, but they need to work on their favoritism. I am good with attention to detail. All employers need to be doing stuff by evaluation. I believe in the past that men make more income than women in executive level jobs because they perform their jobs better than women. I remember my mother says women get more stressed out at jobs than men while working under pressure. Men at employers perform their jobs better because they can work under pressure. That's why my mother said she cannot picture a woman being President of the United States and in the Oval Office because the job requires working under pressure to make policy decisions. I am not saying employers should favor more men, but women just need to do better in the private sector. Unconscious biases often contribute to favoritism. Training on unconscious bias can help individuals recognize and mitigate these biases in decision-making processes related to promotions, task assignments, and recognition. That's why I try to make the church Board of Directors more balanced because I have more men than women that serve on the Board of Directors. I have more men for my pastoral staff than women. It does not mean that I provide favoritism to men in top jobs. seems like men are more qualified based on their experience and qualifications based on resumes my office receives in Detroit. That's why

the congregation created a Volunteer-to-Work Program in 2015. The Church Board of Directors are mostly men, but membership is growing among women aged 25-44 because I believe it based on my preaching in the pulpit since 2020. This congregation has become 59.9% women and 40.1% men according to records from Membership Development Ministry. All employers need to celebrate diversity and create an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talents. That can be legislation proposed in Congress by Democrats or Republicans to enforce employers to promote more diversity in the workplaces in the nation. I do advise women to be taken more seriously with employers because it is as good as men to be considered for top executive and management jobs. 30% of leadership positions are held by women in the private sector compared to men that hold 70% of leadership positions. 28% of women hold top executive jobs compared to men with 72%. 41% of entrepreneurs and 59% of men are entrepreneurs.