

Gospel-shaped Care > James 2:1-7

2:1 *Show no favoritism.* James, as always, is clear and concise: Christians are not to show favoritism or partiality in their following of – or witness to – Jesus Christ.

2:2-4 *What favoritism looks like.* James gives an example of two men coming into a congregation. One bears marks of obvious wealth that are easy to see. The other does not – quite the opposite, in fact. The challenge James gives is this: how will we treat each of these men? If we cozy-up to the rich man and treat him better than the poor man, then we’ve started to divide the congregation and turned ourselves into unjust judges.

2:5-7 *What favoritism gets wrong.* Partiality, James argues, is wrong for at least three reasons – the first two are found in these verses. *First*, it dishonors the very people that God honors. In doing this, it gives a false picture of the gospel and distorts our picture of the Lord. *Second*, it favors those who so often oppose the Lord and oppress His people!

The Point: We display Christ’s love well when we care for one another without favoritism.

Prayer: Father, thank you for loving us even when we weren’t “favorable”! Help us to better love one another without distinction as a way to show the gospel to all around us.

Application: Who might you be tempted to overlook? Who might you be tempted to cozy-up to? Ask the Lord to give you a pure heart filled with Christ’s love toward the whole church.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
