

## Playing Favorites

### James 1:26-2:13

- I. A worshipping community in Christ. James 1:26-27
  - a. The word religion is also translated as worship (Col 2:18)
    - i. The Greek word Religion means-“the outward practice, the service of a god”
  - b. Caring for the vulnerable is at the heart of God. Matthew 25:34-40
  
- II. The struggle to worship together in Christ.
  - a. James teaches about playing favorites 2:1-4
    - i. To Play favorites is also to reject another.
    - ii. Rejection cuts at the heart of our identity. We are created for Community and we are created with worth.
    - iii. The favoritism James talks about is outward appearance
  - b. James teaches us about Judgment.
    - i. Judgment can be used with Godly motives or Ungodly motives. Matthew 7:1-3
      1. Judging between right and wrong is godly
      2. Judging to devalue another person is wrong.
  - c. A worldly value system is blind to God’s value system.
    - i. the weak of the world are strong. Vs 5-7
      1. Those that are broken and in need of a rescue rest close to Christ. Psalm 68:5, Matthew 5:3, 1 Corinthians 1:27, 2 Corinthians 12:10
  - d. How do you play favorites? They deserve my love and attention because?
  
- III. The Gospel fuels a Worshipping community. James 2:8-13
  - a. Remember God has created us to live and thrive in the royal law vs. 8
    - i. We don’t set the standard for what makes a person important, God does.
    - ii. IF you belong to the king you should live like the king desires.
      1. We all are created for community
      2. We are all created with worth.
      3. We speak truth in love so that we can all grow up in Him. (Eph 4:15)
  - b. Consider our poverty apart from Christ.vs.9-11
    - i. There are only two kinds of people in this world, Jesus and everyone that needs Jesus.
  - c. Share the Mercy you have found in Christ. Vs.12-13