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**Faith, Favoritism, and Love**

**Introduction:**

James 2:1–13

**I. The Sin of Partiality**

Key Point: Partiality contradicts faith in Christ.

- v.1 – Command: “Do not hold the faith... with partiality.”
  - Partiality (favoritism) is incompatible with belief in Jesus, who is impartial.
- vv.2–3 – Illustration of favoritism:
  - Rich man vs. poor man in assembly.
  - Application: How do we treat people based on appearance, wealth, or status?
- v.4 – Rebuke: “Have you not become judges with evil thoughts?”

**II. God’s Perspective on the Poor and Rich**

Key Point: God often chooses the poor in the world to be rich in faith.

- v.5 – God’s choice: The poor are often spiritually rich and heirs of the Kingdom.
- vv.6–7 – The irony: They dishonor the poor while the rich often oppress and blaspheme.

**III. The Royal Law and the Whole Law**

Key Point: Loving your neighbor fulfills the royal law. Breaking one part of the law breaks all of it.

- v.8 – “Love your neighbor as yourself” = Royal Law (from Lev. 19:18; affirmed by Jesus).
- v.9 – Favoritism is sin.
- vv.10–11 – The unity of the law: breaking one command makes you guilty of all.

**IV. Verses 12–13: Speak and Act as One Judged by the Law of Freedom**

Key Point: Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- v.12 – Live aware that you’ll be judged by the “law of liberty” (i.e., gospel law).
- v.13 – Without mercy, there is judgment. But mercy triumphs!

**Prayer Points**

- Ask God to reveal and root out favoritism in your heart.
- Pray for a deeper understanding of mercy and how to extend it.
- Pray for the church to reflect God's impartial love in community.