



Genuine Living Faith

Sin, Obedience, Comparison, and Freedom

James 2:1-13



**1. Favoritism is
Wrong.**

James 2:1-4

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 “You sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Why is favoritism a sin?

It is inconsistent with who God is.

Romans 2:11

For God shows no partiality.

Titus 2:11

**For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation for all people.**

- It isn't consistent with who God is.
- It is inconsiderate and insulting to those made in God's image.
- Against the Biblical definition of love that Christ teaches.

James 2:8-9

If you really keep the royal law found in scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of
selfish ambition or
vain conceit. Rather
in humility value
others above
yourself.

James 2:10-11

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For He who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.”

If you do not commit adultery but you do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

2. We can't
selectively choose
what we want to obey
or listen to.

Romans 8:31

If God is for us, who can be
against us?

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous. Do
not be frightened and do not be
dismayed for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.

Luke 9:23

And He said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

James 2:10-11

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For He who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.”

If you do not commit adultery but you do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

**3. We can't claim
relative innocence.**

Romans 3:23

**For all have sinned
and fall short of the
glory of God.**

James 2:12-13

**Speak and act as those
who are going to be judged
by the law that gives
freedom. Because judgment
without mercy will be
shown to anyone who has
not been merciful. Mercy
triumphs over judgment.**

4. Live your life by the
law that gives
freedom.

Romans 8:1

**There is now no
condemnation in
Christ.**

1. Favoritism is wrong.

2. We can't selectively pick and choose what we want to obey or listen to when it comes to the Word of God.

3. We can't claim relative innocence.

**4. Live your life by the law of freedom.
We have been freed — so live that way!**

