

How Our Faith Challenges Prejudice

Active Faith Unleashed – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis – August 20, 2023

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Galatians 3:28 (ESV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Samuel 16:7b (ESV) For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Acts 10:34-35 (ESV) So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

1. The danger of surface _____

James 2:1 (ESV) My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

James 2:2 (ESV) For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,

James 2:3-4 (ESV) and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

2. Valuing all through Christ’s _____

James 2:5 (ESV) Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

James 2:6-7 (ESV) But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

James 2:8 (ESV) If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

3. Choosing _____ over condemnation

James 2:9 (ESV) But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

James 2:10-11 (ESV) For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

James 2:12-13 (ESV) So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

How Our Faith Challenges Prejudice Study Guide
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Intro. How would you define prejudice?

What does Galatians 3:28 tell us about unity in the church?

What is the difference between how people view people and how the Lord views people (1 Samuel 16:7)?

How does God show no partiality (Acts 10:34-35)?

1A. Why are faith and partiality mutually exclusive (James 2:1)?

1B. What thoughts would you have if the situation described in James 2:2 happened in church?

1C. What are the evil thoughts that James refers to in James 2:3-4?

1D. What kind of surface judgements are you tempted to make with people?

2A. Why do you think that God brings more poor people into His kingdom than rich people (James 2:5)?

2B. In what ways are the rich often antagonistic to the church (James 2:6-7)?

2C. How does the royal law help us overcome prejudice (James 2:8)?

2D. Who in your life do you find it difficult to love?

3A. In what ways is partiality a sin (James 2:9)?

3B. What is wrong with classifying prejudice as a small sin (James 2:10-11)?

3C. What does the statement “mercy triumphs over judgement” mean (James 2:12-13)?

3D. How can you grow in choosing compassion over condemnation?