

TRUE FAITH, NO PARTIALITY

Wednesday Gathering; James 2:1-13; Week of Sunday, August 23, 2026; Richie Pendred

Sermon Theme: Our world is immersed in partiality, but that doesn't make it good. James confronts the church with a truth: favoritism has no place among God's people. Healthy churches love without distinction or delay. Therefore, because Christ loved us first, we must put partiality to death and love our brothers and sisters in Christ for God's glory.

I. Condemnation of Partiality – Read James 2:1-4

- A. How would you define partiality? What ways have you encountered partiality in your life (work, school, church, media)?
- B. What type of partiality is taking place in this church? Why is it such a problem? As you look at James' summary statements in verse 1 and verse 9, what's his reaction to this type of behavior?
- C. What are some of the ways in which you have seen partiality play out in the church?
- D. In what ways are you prone to struggle with showing favoritism, maybe even unintentionally?

II. Explanation of Partiality – Read James 2:5-11

- A. Can you list the 3 reasons why partiality is wrong according to these verses? For starters, how does it contradict the truth about who God is and how He has treated us in Christ Jesus our Lord?
- B. In what ways does partiality contradict the royal law of love?
- C. How would you like to grow in loving your neighbor as yourself (loving your brothers and sisters in Christ)?

III. Consequences of Partiality – Read James 2:12-13

- A. Why is it so encouraging that James calls us to speak and to act according to the law of liberty? How do John 8:36 and Galatians 5:13-14 help us to understand the law of liberty?
- B. In what ways was the Lord Jesus impartial toward sinners and rebels? How does the impartiality of Christ's love toward sinners fuel your love for God's people?
- C. How do you plan to initiate with people who are very different from you?
- D. In what ways is the decision not to love God's covenant community a warning of false faith (1 John 4:19-21)?