

Playing Favorites

James, a servant of God and of
the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered
among the nations..

Jas 1:1 (TNIV)

My brothers and sisters,
believers in our glorious Lord
Jesus Christ must not show
favoritism.

Jas 2:1 (TNIV)



*ou're not
lutch...*

Now Israel loved Joseph more
than any of his other sons,
because he had been born to
him in his old age; and he made
a richly ornamented robe for
him.

Gen 37:3--4 (NIV)

When his brothers saw that their
father loved him more than any
of them, they hated him and
could not speak a kind word to
him.

Suppose a man comes into your meeting/gathering (synagogue).

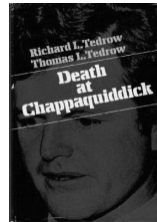
Jas 2:2 (NIV)

Suppose someone comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor person in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the one wearing fine clothes and say,

Jas 2:2-4 (TNIV)

“Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the one who is poor, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Preferential treatment?



But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

James 2:6 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

Lk 14:12-14 (NIV)

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. [18] He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

Deut. 10:17-18 (NIV)

Where do we compromise the gospel in “playing favorites?”