

## HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT James 2:1-13

### Definition of Discrimination:

"Making any decision about another person based solely on \_\_\_\_\_. Favoritism is discriminating \_\_\_\_\_ a person; while prejudice is discriminating \_\_\_\_\_ person on the basis of one of them."

### The Problem with Discrimination:

1. Discrimination is \_\_\_\_\_
2. Discrimination doesn't \_\_\_\_\_
3. Discrimination is \_\_\_\_\_
4. Discrimination is \_\_\_\_\_

### How To Get Past Our Prejudices:

#### 1. Remember that in God's eyes we are all equal:

- As \_\_\_\_\_
- In \_\_\_\_\_
- In \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Prejudice, favoritism, and discrimination is not a new problem. But it can end in each of us, when we \_\_\_\_\_.

### Small Group Guide

Someone has said that the way we behave towards people shows what we really believe about God. What are your thoughts?

Was there a specific thought or verse this week that particularly caught your attention or brought a new perspective in dealing with these issues?

What are one or two issues of favoritism you most frequently encounter? What kinds of people do you most often avoid or have a tendency to pre-judge? Why?

Why do you think people often size up someone else without knowing the whole story?

Have you ever been pleasantly surprised by someone you judged wrongly? What did you learn?

God does not show partiality. As you read the verses below, what insights can you gain on the importance of God's impartiality and integrating that character quality into your own life?

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

2 Chronicles 19:4-7

Acts 10:34-35

Romans 2:1-6

Romans 2:11

The pressing issue in the churches James writes to in his letter is socio-economic. Within a few years, the salvation of Gentiles would raise a new issue of prejudice. What issues do you think James would be concerned about in our time?

Most of us wouldn't engage in the blatant favoritism of verses 2-4. Are there ways we do this in more subtle and sophisticated fashion? How does James challenge some of our cherished preferences or prejudices?

For James, the law of neighbor love is the final word on all matters of partiality and prejudice. Do Christians today take a lack of love as seriously as James seems to suggest they should? If not, why not?

How can a church or small group guard against becoming so comfortable with one another that they subtly exclude others, expressing a kind of "partiality"? What would it look like to be part of a church that is without prejudice?