

How To Treat Others Right

Working Faith #4-10

January 22, 2012

1. Avoid playing favorites.

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. **James 2:1 (NIV)**

Common areas of discrimination:

- **Appearance.** (*James 2:1-4, John 7:24*)
- **Ancestry.** (*Colossians 3:11*)
- **Age.** (*1 Tim 5:1-2*)
- **Achievement.** (*Mark 11:9-11, 15:13-14*)
- **Affluence.** (*James 2:6*)

Three problems with favoritism.

- It's **unchristian.** (*Romans 2:11*)

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. **James 2:1 (NIV)**

- It's **unreasonable.** (*James 2:6-7*)

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **James 2:5 (NIV)**

- It's **unloving.** (*James 2:6-13*)

But you have insulted the poor...⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **James 2:6-9 (NIV)**

2. Accept people where they are.

God chose the poor in the world to be rich with faith and to receive the kingdom God promised to those who love him.

James 2:5 (NCV)

- **Acceptance** does not mean **approval.**

Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you. He did this to bring glory to God. **Romans 15:7 (GWT)**

3. Appreciate everybody.

God chose the poor in the world to be rich with faith and to receive the kingdom God promised to those who love him. **James 2:5 (NCV)**

I am very glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus have arrived. They have made up for my not seeing you. They are a tonic to me and to you. You should appreciate having men like that! **1 Corinthians 16:17 (Ph)**

I thank my God every time I remember you. **Philippians 1:3 (NIV)**

Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. **Hebrews 13:7 (MSG)**

4. Affirm the real value of others.

The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰ But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

James 1:9-10 (NIV)

Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other. **Romans 12:10 (GWT)**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up... **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)**

We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. **Hebrews 10:24 (GWT)**