

Introduction: How do we experience social restoration?

Phase 1:

Social _____

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

James 2:1

Command:

Stop playing _____

The social distinction of a Christ-centered community is that there is _____ social distinction.

Definition:

Favoritism – “To make unjust distinctions between people by treating one person better than another.”

What does favoritism / partiality look like?

- Treating certain people as more _____ than other people.
- Looking down on those with whom you _____.
- Overlooking those who make you _____.

Why is this such a big deal?

Reason #1:

It is an affront to the _____ of _____. James 2:5-7

Reason #2:

The law of _____ demands _____. James 2:8-11

Reason #3:

You are not the _____ and _____, God is. James 2:12-13

Social restoration begins when followers of Jesus embrace there are no social distinctions.

- Embrace and own that you play favorites.

- Before you speak or act, ask yourself, “What does love require of me?”

“God, help me to see others not as my enemies or as ungodly, but rather as thirsty people. And give me the courage and compassion to offer Your Living Water, which alone quenches deep thirst.”

Henri Nouwen

“Our confused society badly needs a community of contrast, a counterculture of ordinary pilgrims who insist on living a different way.”

Philip Yancey

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when you demonstrated favoritism. What was the outcome?
2. Why is showing favoritism so important to recognize?
3. Are you currently demonstrating favoritism? What steps will you take to counteract this behavior?
4. What does love require of you today? How will you specifically demonstrate this love?