

"Favoritism, Love, and the Coming Judgment"

James 2:1-13

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose (Why did God write this?): To reveal the mind of the Lord with regard to favoritism, and how it must be rooted out by the law of love in particular. And in general, God reveals the truth about law keeping, law breaking, and the mercy and judgment to come.

I. Forbid Judgmental Favoritism in Yourself and Others *1:1-7*

Rom 8:29	1 John 3:2-3	Matt 5:3	Luke 6:20	Luke 16:22-23
Luke 16:15	Matt 19:23-26	Matt 1:21	Acts 4:12	1 John 3:23

If such favoritism is out of bounds and unfitting, what should take its place?

II. Keep the Royal Law of Love *1:8-11*

Lev 19:18	John 13:34-35	2 John 5, 6	Exo 23:2-3	Lev 19:15
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There were 613 laws in the OT. These were summarized by:

- ♣ the 10 Commandments of Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.
- ♣ the 3 commands of Micah 6:8.
- ♣ the 2 commands of Matthew 22:37-39.
- ♣ the 1 command of Habakkuk 2:4 (see Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; & Heb 10:38).

In the past we showed favoritism; in the present we keep the royal law of love; in the future there is a judgment.

III. Live Like You Will be Judged, Because You Will *1:12-13*

1 Cor 3:10-15	1 Cor 5:12-13
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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Judgmental favoritism is to be forbidden; the royal law of love is to be kept, with an eye on the coming judgment.

The Big Story: In the Abrahamic Covenant God told His people, "I will bless you . . . you will be a blessing" (Gen 12:2). You are blessed and a blessing when you honor, help, and invite your poor neighbor in, thus shutting favoritism out.

The Big Question: Will you forbid favoritism, pursue love, and live in light of the coming judgment?

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