

SERIES: BRIDGE BUILDING part 5
Bridge-building With Those Who Are Different From Me
May 2, 2021

James 2:1-13

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

WHAT AREAS CAN I PRE-JUDGE OTHERS IN?

- Appearance
- Ancestry
- Age
- Achievement
- Affluence

WHY SHOULD I OVERCOME FAVORITISM?

• **Favoritism Makes Me Unlike Christ**

Romans 2:11 (NIV) "For God does not show favoritism."

1 Samuel 16:7 (AMP) "...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

• **Favoritism Doesn't Make Sense**

James 2:5 (NIV) "... Has not God chosen those who are poor...to be rich in faith...and to inherit the kingdom ...?"

James 2:6 (NIV) "...Is it not the rich who are exploiting you?..."

• **Favoritism Is Unloving**

James 2:8 (NIV) "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."

James 2:9-10 (NIV) "If you show favoritism you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."

1 John 4:20 (VOICE) "...Anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

HOW TO BUILD BRIDGES WITH OTHERS WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM ME:

• **Accept Everybody**

Romans 15:7 (NIV) "Accept one another just as Christ accepted you ..."

• **Appreciate Everybody**

1 Corinthians 12: 27, 21 (NIV) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it...The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

• **Affirm Everybody**

Galatians 3:26-28 (LB) "For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by him. We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus."