

THE ROYAL LAW

“Love People Fairly”

James 2:1-13



Getting Started

Put yourself in this scenario:

You walk into a room full of people and quickly scan the area.

What are you looking for?

What do you do next?

- Grab a refreshment and continue to scan?
- Find someone you know?
- Introduce yourself to a stranger?
- Other...

Read and Reflect

Read James 2:1-13

How would you define the Law of Affiliation or Favoritism?

Why do people show favoritism (selecting to be with some and not with others)?

What do vs. 5-7 tell show us about favoritism?

What caution should one take from vs. 8-13?

What is most challenging for you (or your church) concerning this passage?

Engage and Discuss

Where do you see the Law of Favoritism at work in the world today?

In what ways do you avoid or affiliate with certain people based on the social advantages or disadvantages of connecting with them?

What are the downsides to favoritism?

What are the potential benefits of living by the Royal Law of Fairness instead?

Next Steps

Which of the following action steps might you take this week?

- Pay attention to who I tend to favor in my social affiliations and think about why that it is
- Celebrate that our church is a place that is hospitable to an expanding variety of people who might not be found together in other social settings
- Extend personal hospitality to strangers at the church and in my comings and goings elsewhere
- Deliberately establish conversation with someone with whom I would not naturally tend to affiliate, seeking to understand their story