

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? Conversation Guide

For further reflection personally, with a friend or your Group.

Favoritism is a spiritual problem that grieves the heart of God. We must take drastic action to remove all forms of favoritism and prejudice from our lives. It is not enough to say we love EVERYONE; we must actively demonstrate our love for EVERYONE.

GETTING STARTED

Can you recall a time when you were the victim of favoritism or prejudice? What happened?

LOOKING DEEPER

1. Read James 2:1-11. What can we do to make sure that everyone we encounter receives the same level of love and hospitality regardless of their appearance?
2. Read James 2:12-13. If we know that a person is poor because of sinful or foolish behavior, how does that change the way we should treat them? How can we show mercy without "enabling" someone's bad behavior?
3. If "mercy triumphs over judgment" (vs. 13), why do we still choose to judge other people?
4. What kinds of prejudices still exist in your heart? How does the problem of favoritism manifest itself in your home, work place, school, etc.?
5. Read James 2:14-26. Why is action essential to the Christian faith?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What is the difference between being saved **BY** good works and being saved **FOR** good works? What practical difference does our motive make when doing good deeds?

TAKE IT WITH YOU — *personal reflection*

*Jesus "went around doing good" (Acts 10:38). How could you do the same this week?
In what practical way could you put love and mercy into action?*

*The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
Galatians 5:14*