

# Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James "Whole People Don't Play Favorites"

October 16-17, 2021

This provides about one hour of discussion, music and readings. Use the portions you find most helpful. If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.

**Open** with the song, "If We are the Body." [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_7j1SMuTN0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_7j1SMuTN0)

- What experience came to mind when you watched this?

## 1. When **partiality** is present... somebody always **loses**.

- Discuss your ideas about this statement: "Divisiveness and favoritism are not new." Why do you think James wrote about favoritism?
- What are some types of favoritism in our society?
- When partiality is present, **everyone** loses. Explain why you agree or disagree with this idea.
- Read **1 Samuel 16:7, Luke 11:43 and 14:12, Matthew 6:5, Galatians 3:28, Psalm 147:10, and James 3:14-18**. What is something that stands out to you in these passages?

## 2. The **church** is a **place** where **all** should be **seen**.

- How can we better value each other within the church?
- Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-27, and Romans 12:1-10**. How do these verses show God's perspective on His design and value for each member? What is your response to this?

## 3. Love **God** and love **others**, regardless of how **they** look.

- Read **Matthew 22:37-40, Ephesians 4:15-16, and Philippians 2:3-5**.
- What is God saying to me about how I view others?
- How can I contribute to God's purpose within the Body of Christ?

**Close** with theme-related songs:

"My Worth is Not in What I Own" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05jKxv8Apul>

"I Will Boast in Christ Alone" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfdTSKeFc2Y>