

## 6. Do You Show Favoritism?

Favoritism – a very ugly thing. It destroys families. It breaks hearts and causes horrible conflicts.

So much pain comes from favoritism. It not only hurts the ones not favored, but can hurt the ones favored as well.

Look what happened when Israel showed favoritism to his son Joseph. It caused so much pain in the family that Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but ended up selling their own brother as a slave! (**Scriptures 1. Joseph Sold as a Slave - Genesis 37:3-28**).

The Lord instructs us not to show favoritism (**Scriptures 2. Do Not Show Favoritism**). In our church, we should not treat those with wealth better than those without. Scriptures even say that if you show favoritism, you sin. So not only are you hurting people and causing pain and conflict, but you are actually sinning against God.

God does not show favoritism (Thank you Jesus!). His wonderful salvation and Holy Spirit are for everyone who reaches for it (**Scriptures 3. God Does Not Show Favoritism**). It doesn't matter how you have lived your life, or what you have done. Nor your race, sex, age, or bloodline. Jesus loves us all.

Wounds from favoritism run deep. As a child, I experienced an extreme case of favoritism and I was definitely not the favorite. Growing up seeing one of your siblings get almost all the love and attention is seriously hurtful. It's like the parents saying, I don't care about or love you, I only love that child, and you are insignificant and unimportant. I still have issues over that today. For me, it's not something you can just get over. It stays with you. Certain things can happen that brings all this to memory and then go through it all over again.

I am so appreciative that Jesus doesn't show favoritism. God's love is one thing no one can take away from us. He will never fail us or leave us.

Of course, we get along with different people at different levels, and some kids are easier than others. And we tend to be closer to certain family members than others. But still, we should be courteous and kind to everyone. We should treat all our children the same and show love and respect to them all.

Especially if you are a born again Christian, you absolutely should not be showing favoritism. The Bible makes it very clear; God does not want us to show favoritism in any situation. It can be hard. Temptation to show favoritism can be strong, but we need to rise above that and never show favoritism in any part of our lives.

## jenaministries – Part 2 6. Do You Show Favoritism?

### Scripture 1. Joseph Sold as a Slave

Genesis 37:3-28 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

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### Scripture 1. Joseph Sold as a Slave - continued

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

### Scripture 2. Do Not Show Favoritism

James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

James 2:9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Exodus 23:3 And do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit.

### Scripture 3. God Does Not Show Favoritism

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Colossians 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Romans 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

Ephesians 6:9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.