

OUR SAVIOURS' CHAPEL, DELTA STATE UNIVESRITY, ABRAKA

MID-WEEK TEACHING & PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: Putting Faith to Work (The Book of James)

Topic: The Danger of Favouritism

Background Scripture: James 2: 1-13

Introduction

Favouritism is the act of giving unfair treatment to one person or group at the expense of another. Favouritism is closely linked to discrimination- the bottom line is that one is seen to be making/make unjustified distinctions between people/groups, classes or other categories which they are perceived to belong. Favouritism has to do with unfair preferential treatment.

DISCUSSION

Favouritism can manifest in the following places/instances:

- a) In the home – the example of Jacob and Joseph comes readily handy (see Genesis 37: 3 & 4).
- b) At workplace- selective and partial treatment of workers-e.g.-over tolerant of some and terribly intolerant of others.
- c) In the church- clique formation and the harbouring of 'I belong to Paul, Apollos/Cephas syndrome'
- d) In the larger society- unfair and discriminatory treatment of people based on unacceptable or double standards.

Why is Favouritism Condemned?

- 1) Favouritism is Inconsistent with God's Character- see Deuteronomy 10: 17, Romans 2:11, Acts 10: 34, Job 34: 19, Mal. 2: 9
- 2) Favouritism is Contrary to God's Values- James 2: 2 & 3. Our values are not God's values (James 2: 5 & 6).
- 3) Favouritism is sin (James 2:9).

Dangers of Favouritism

- a) Resentment and jealousy that could lead to catastrophic consequences
- b) Breaks team spirit and instead breeds disunity/disharmony/disrespect
- c) It could lead to depression
- d) Anxiety
- e) Low morale/low self- esteem/withdrawal syndrome
- f) It could promote mediocrity

Conclusion

Favouritism has all its negative connotations. Favouritism is sin and Christians should as much as possible be fair in all their dealings, whether at home, place of work, church/ fellowship or in the wider society. Partiality and discrimination are closely linked with favouritism and as such, must be avoided at all times.

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