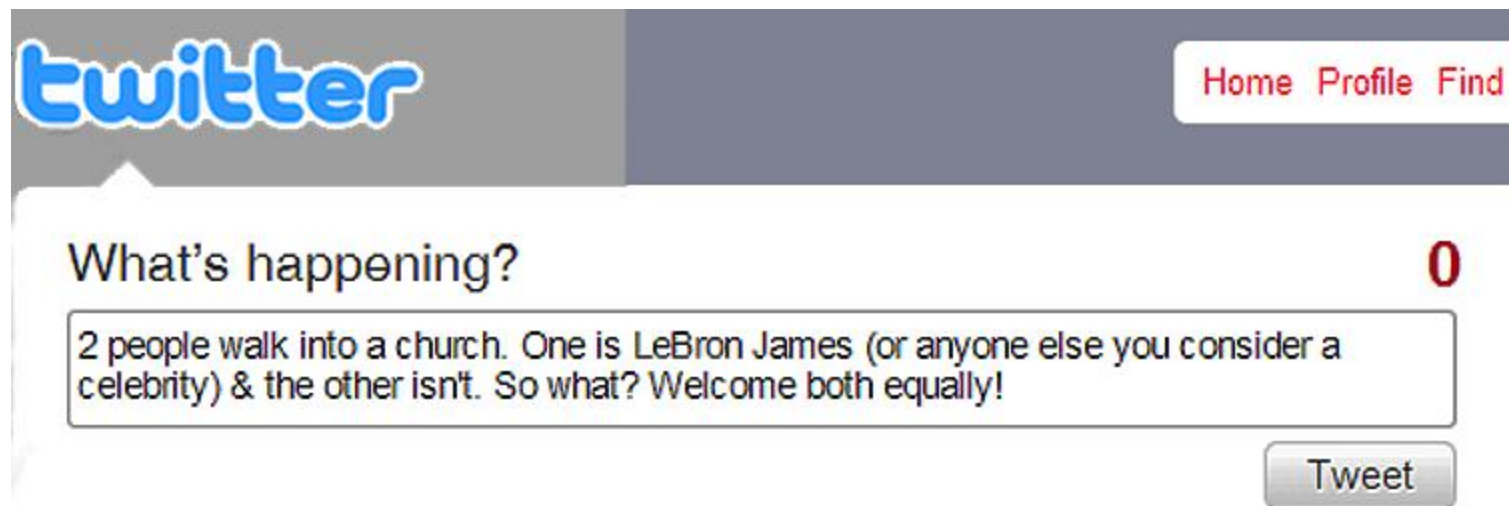


**Why
can't we all
just
get along
swimmingly?**



A preview & tweetable version of this message:

A screenshot of a Twitter interface. At the top left is the Twitter logo. At the top right are links for 'Home', 'Profile', and 'Find'. Below the header is a text input field with the prompt 'What's happening?' and a red '0' indicating zero replies. The input field contains the text: '2 people walk into a church. One is LeBron James (or anyone else you consider a celebrity) & the other isn't. So what? Welcome both equally!'. Below the input field is a 'Tweet' button.

twitter

Home Profile Find

What's happening? 0

2 people walk into a church. One is LeBron James (or anyone else you consider a celebrity) & the other isn't. So what? Welcome both equally!

Tweet

Where are we in James?

Week 1 | A changed life gets in the game. (Overview)

Week 2 | Christ ones are to endure through trials with joy. (James 1:1-12)

Week 3 | Considering the source of what we encounter in life protects us from being deceived. (James 1:13-18)

Week 4 | We train for the righteous life that God desires by hearing God's Word and doing what it says. (James 1:19-27)

Week 5 | Today, legalism and courtroom drama! (James 2:1-13)

Two aspects of God's character

1 | God is not partial and doesn't play favorites.

Romans 2:11, "For God does not show favoritism."

2 | God values the poor.

Luke 6:20, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

Definitions of important terms

Judge/Judging | Proverbs 24:23-26.

Discernment | 1 Kings 3:10-12.

Discrimination | James 2:5

Mercy | Proverbs 18:23, Hosea 6:6, Zechariah 7:9,
Micah 7:18.

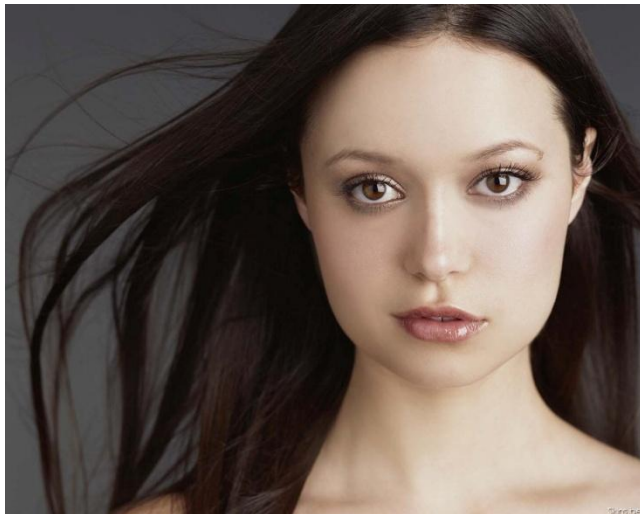
Favoritism/Partiality | James 2:1.

Favoring the pretty over the ugly

Favoritism (partiality) =

“to receive someone according to their face”

“to receive the face”





Face Recognition vs. Heart Recognition

James 2:1-13





**Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition**
James 2:1-13



Faith Roles | Heart Roles

Verse(s)	Face Recognition (how they saw others/themselves)	Heart Recognition (the reality of their hearts/motives)
James 2:1	Brothers/Church Family	Believers
James 2:2-4	Judges	Idolaters
James 2:5-7	Witnesses	Abusers
James 2:8-11	Accused	Lawbreakers
James 2:12-13	Judged	Acquitted



Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition

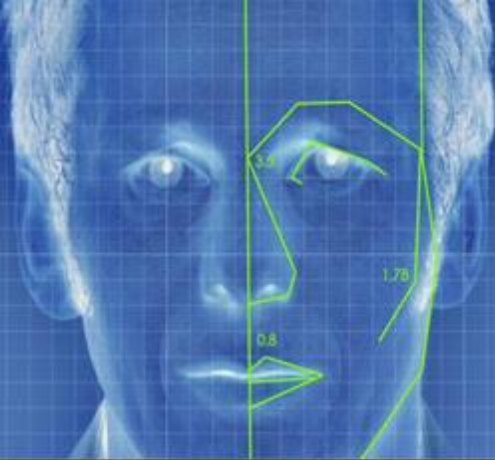
James 2:1-13



James 2:1 NIV

1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious LORD Jesus Christ, ***don't show favoritism*** (receive the face).

A church family of like-minded believers



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13




James 2:1-4 NIV

2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,”

4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

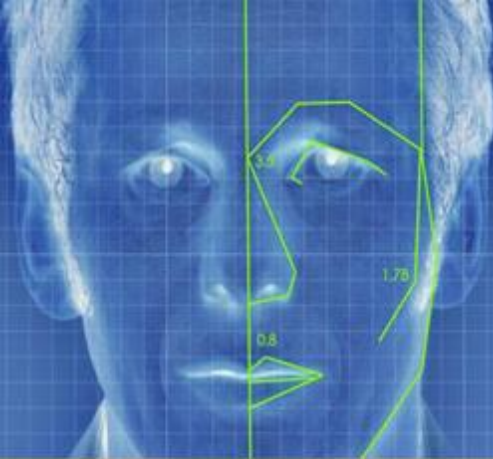


Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



Judges who were really idolaters



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



Face Scan: They thought they were okay.

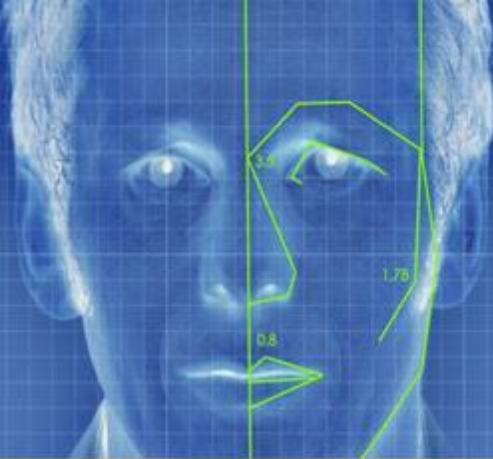
Heart Scan: But they were really being evil idolaters.

Sit on the floor!

“Here’s a good seat for you...”



“You sit on the floor...”



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13





Face Recognition vs. Heart Recognition

James 2:1-13



Rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous

Juan Williams (left) is an American journalist, author, and political commentator for NPR and Fox News. He also writes for leading newspapers including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and has been published in magazines including *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Time*.



James 2:5-7 NIV

5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

6 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

7 Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition
James 2:1-13



Face Recognition VS. Heart Recognition

James 2:1-13



Witnesses who are really abusers



Face Scan: They thought they were witnesses to the glory of rich men.

Heart Scan: But they were really abusing and being used.



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



James 2:8-11 NIV

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

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

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.



Accused who are really lawbreakers!

Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



Face Scan: They begin to see the error of their ways but don't see sin's full impact.

Heart Scan: The extent of their sin (not error) is more serious than they realize.



Face Recognition vs. Heart Recognition

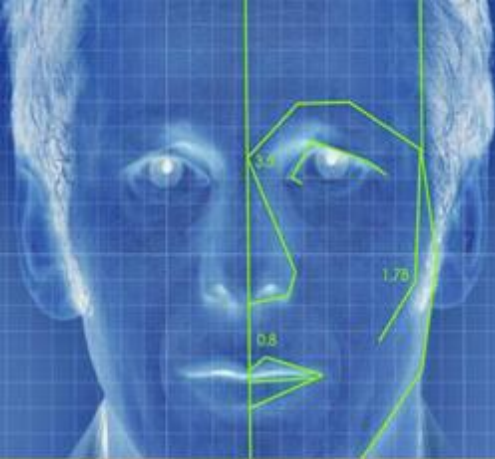
James 2:1-13



Leviticus 19:13-18

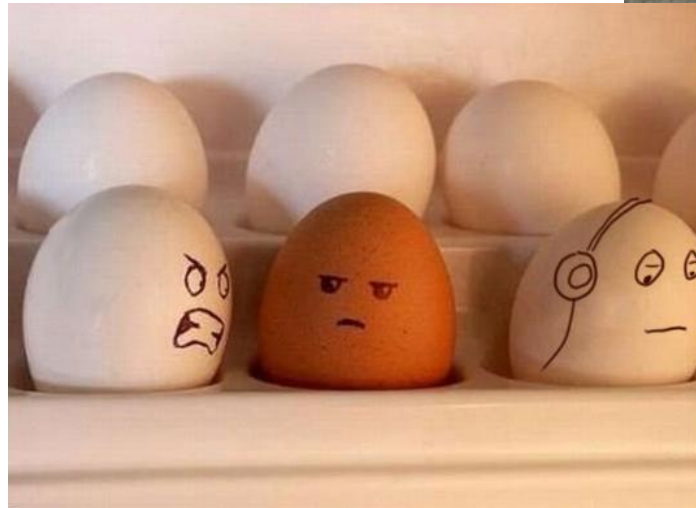
“Do not defraud your neighbor or rob him. Do not hold back the wages of a hired man overnight. Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD. Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD. Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

Favoritism is a form of legalism



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13





Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



James 2:12-13 NIV

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,

13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.

Mercy triumphs over judgment!



Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



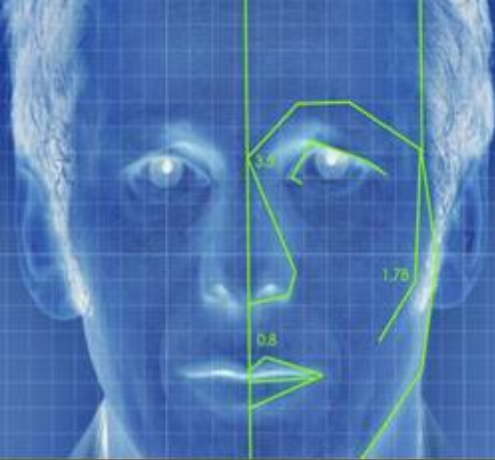
Judged but acquitted through mercy



Face Scan: They knew they deserved execution.

Heart Scan: They received the mercy and grace of God.

All are ugly sinners



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13





Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



Summary in fewer than 10 words



Partiality? Favoritism? **Bad!**
Wealthy? Celebrity? **Caution!**
Mercy? Justice? **Good!**



**Face
Recognition
VS.
Heart
Recognition**

James 2:1-13



Summary as the banner over & behind me

“Living the call together”



Face
Recognition
vs.
Heart
Recognition

James 2:1-13



Our ministry is mercy

“The Lord Jesus has summoned his body to be what he is in the world. Mercy ministry is not optional but is demanded of all Christians, reflecting God’s concern for the value of life and his image bearers.”