**Authentic** *(Series Graphic)*

**Me!? Prejudice!?**

**Prejudice**: *“preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience or evidence.”*

(James 2:1-4)

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show **favoritism**. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 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,” have you not **discriminated** among yourselves and become **judges** with evil thoughts?”

1. God is **not** prejudice.

(2 Samuel 16:7)

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. **The Lord does not look at the things people look at**. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the **heart**.”

It **displeases** God to judge others by their **outward appearance**.

(James 2:5)

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

1. Showing partiality is a **sin**.

(Leviticus 19:18)

“…but **love** your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

(Luke 10:27)

“…**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, **Love** your neighbor as yourself.”

(John 13:34)

“A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

 Favoring people by any social status goes **against** the Christian law of **love**.

(James 2:8-10)

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love you neighbor as yourself,” **you are doing right**. But if you show favoritism**, you sin** and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking it all.”

1. Judge and be **judged**.

(James 2:4)

“have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with **evil thoughts**?’

Show **mercy**.