

THE UGLIEST TWINS IN THE CHURCH

James 2:1–13

Unfortunately, most people have a mistaken idea about the church. They think it's the place where only the godly gather, where sin is rarely found, and, therefore, where sinners don't belong. It's hard to know where that misunderstanding was spawned, since from the beginning of church life, there have always been those who fail and fall short of God's ideal standard. This doesn't mean that God's standard no longer exists. We are often reminded by the Lord our God, "You must be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15–16). A holy walk with God remains the standard, but the simple fact is—more often than not—we don't behave like we say we believe. James cared so much about that, he wrote a penetrating letter addressing some of the specific areas of wrong-doing. Today, we're taking a close look at "*the ugliest twins in the church*" . . . *partiality and prejudice*.

I. Statement of the Main Issue (v. 1)

- To whom is James writing?
- What is his major concern?
- When does it occur in our lives?

II. Illustration of the Issue (vv. 2–4)

- Local setting
- Personal response
- Sinful motives

III. Careful Explanation of the Issue (vv. 5–13)

- Theological reason
- Logical reason
- Biblical reason
- Eternal reason