

## JAMES

Faith on Display in Your Relationships // Galatians 3:27-29

THE POINT: Don't play favorites.

**OVERVIEW:** We've made a lot of advances in medicine and technology, but we've made no advancement in human relations. We claim that all people are created equal, but prejudice and preferential treatment of others is still prevalent. Whether the distinctions we make are racial, socio-economic, religious, or political, we are drawn to treat individuals and groups differently simply because they are different or can do nothing for us. We need to see people as God sees them.

**DIRECTIONS:** As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.

## Atmosphere

Place charts around the room with rankings of favorite foods, sports, music, and so on. Say, **"We all have unique perspectives and characteristics, but we are all valuable to God and we should see that same value in others."**

## TEACH (Make your notes below)

➤ **THE POINT:** Don't play favorites.

## ➤ 1. BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Galatians 3:27

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## ➤ 2. NO JEW OR GREEK

Galatians 3:28

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## ➤ 3. THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

Galatians 3:29

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## Media

Search the internet for "Don't Put People in Boxes." Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **"Despite all of our differences, all people are made in the image of God and we should treat them with love."**

## PREPARE (Sermon outline)

Whereas we often see others according to race, class, or other divisions, Jesus has removed these distinctions that would separate us, and He makes us one.

➤ **A.** For those who have trusted Jesus, we are called to be baptized.

**B.** Baptism refers to being immersed in water, symbolizing our being buried and raised with Jesus.

**C.** Further, baptism represents our identifying with Jesus in all the ways we live.

➤ **A.** The Jewish people historically saw themselves as God's people—separate and distinct from all other people.

**B.** They were called to be holy (set apart), but they were also to draw the nations to God.

**C.** Jesus has removed these distinctions and called us to live in unity with other believers, no matter their background or experiences.

➤ **A.** Abraham is known as the earthly father of God's people.

**B.** The Jewish people are Abraham's descendants in an earthly sense; the church are Abraham's descendants in a spiritual sense.

**C.** For those who belong to Christ, we are heirs to God's eternal promises to Abraham, and despite our diversity, we are all family and unified in Christ.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

## INTRO

- ▶ What kinds of divisions do you see in the world?
- ▶ Why are people so divided?
- ▶ When have you seen people playing favorites?

## GALATIANS 3:27

- ▶ Why does Jesus call us to be baptized?
- ▶ What is the importance of baptism?
- ▶ How should baptism be represented in the ways we live?

## GALATIANS 3:28

- ▶ What does it mean to be in unity with other believers?
- ▶ How can living in unity benefit the church?
- ▶ What harm can come from disunity?

## GALATIANS 3:29

- ▶ What is the significance of the church being the spiritual descendants of Abraham?
- ▶ What eternal promises do we get to inherit?
- ▶ How have you seen diversity within the family of God?

## LIVE IT OUT

- ▶ **Discuss:** Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.
- ▶ **Ask:** What can you do to foster unity and avoid favoritism?
- ▶ **Pray:** Ask God to help students live in unity with other believers even when they come from different backgrounds.