

## Favoritism Factor

Everyone is drawn to certain personalities, but as a teacher it is extremely important that you lead your class without any hint of an attitude of personal favoritism. This means simply, if you do it for one, you need to do it for all. If you give one student a special treat or gift, they all need to get a special treat or gift. The only exception is if they have earned this special privilege, but the very idea that they earned it also means that any other child in the class could have earned it as well.

Picture a Sunday morning the day before Christmas where a number of the teachers show up with gifts. Students are unwrapping presents, but not all of them. The teachers just brought gifts for the ones to whom they were closest. "Impossible," you say. Not true. I saw this happen and in a church that runs over a thousand. It should have never happened but I still remember it and I'm sure a number of those students who didn't get any gifts remember it also.

A few years ago one of my teachers, who was an artist, drew incredible portraits of two of her students. Very proudly she brought me in the room and showed the pictures to me. As I looked at them on the wall I said, "That's great. You are very talented. Of course, you do know that by doing this for these two students, you now need to do it for all of them. Otherwise, they will know without a doubt that you have favorites in your class."

An attitude of favoritism will undermine everything you are trying to accomplish. There will always be some that you connect with more quickly than others and some that you may be closer to than others, but never lead your class without any hint of an attitude of personal favoritism.

*"My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism . . . but if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers" (James 2:1,9).*