



Epistle of James

James 2:8-13 Favoritism, Royal Law, & Law of Liberty Part \2

- Review of Part 1
 - The ongoing contrast of *loving your neighbor as yourself* and *partiality*.
 - The royal law vs. the law of transgressors.
 - *John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”*
 - If you are a law keeper, you must keep the whole law.
 - » *Gal 3:24 - Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*
- **James 2:11 - For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.**
 - *Exodus 20:14 - “You shall not commit adultery.”*
 - *Exodus 20:13 - “You shall not murder.”*
 - Constable – ‘James illustrated this point with a hypothetical case



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involving two very severe violations of the law. **All sins are not equally serious in that the consequences** of some sins are greater than others, but all sins are equally serious in that any sin is a violation of God's will.'

- Let's compare the consequences of adultery and murder which are the most glaring cases of violation of duty towards one's neighbor to those we don't honestly notice and/or often ignore.
 - » *Eccl 2:17 - Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, **for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.***
 - » *1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and **the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.*
 - » *Rom 13:9 - For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**"*
- And what about being delinquent in *love*, won't that invalidate everything?
- And Paul sends us reminders of what David in *The Psalms* and Solomon in *Ecclesiastes* said about sin.



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» Rom 3:12 - *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*

- ***James 2:12 - So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.***
 - *So speak and so do* are imperative verbs.
 - *as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.*
 - What is this *law of liberty* and what kind of *judgment* is this?
 - First, *will be* is a present active participle and *judged* is present passive.
 - So, what is this *law of liberty* and why are the verbs present tense?
 - » *James 1:25 – But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*
 - » *Gal 6:2 - Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
 - » *John 8:36 - “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*
 - » *Gal 5:1 - Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*
 - Constable states – ‘We need to speak and act accordingly, namely, without prejudice toward others. Since he is speaking to believers, the judgment to



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which he refers must be the judgment of believers at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10).’

– Agree ?

• Jamieson-Fausset-Brown – ‘If we will not in turn practice the law of love to our neighbor, that **law of grace condemns us still more heavily than the old law**, which spake nothing but wrath to him who offended in the least particular (*James 2:13*).’

– But on many occasions David did turn to the Lord and ask for forgiveness didn't he.

» *Psalm 130:3,4 - If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.*

– This is *atonement* (cover over) vs. *propitiation* (appeasing).

» *Lev – 19:22 - ‘The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the Lord for his sin which he has committed. And the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him.*

» *Rom 3:25 - whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,*

» *1 John 2:2 - And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

• **James 2:13 - For judgment is without mercy to the one**



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who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.*
 - Whose mercy is being addressed here?
 - Does this relate to eternal rewards or our walk here?
 - Constable – ‘**For Christians it is sometimes harder to be impartial toward sinners who flaunt their sin than it is those who acknowledge that they have sinned.** However, because Christ died for all we should reach out to all as He did rather than being unfriendly and cliquish. This is true whether the sinners are homosexuals, AIDS patients, the murderers of unborn children, liars, adulterers, thieves, or gossips.’
 - Constable – ‘**This section of verses may raise a question in some minds concerning how James viewed the Christian's relationship to the Mosaic Law.** Was he implying that we are responsible to keep the whole Mosaic Code? His own words at the Jerusalem Council show that this was not his view (cf. *Acts 15:13-21*)..... **Christians live under a new set of rules, the law of liberty. Israelites lived under a different set of rules, the law of Moses.** The fact that the "golden rule" was part of the Mosaic Law as well as the law of Christ does not mean that we are still under the Mosaic Law.’
- *Mercy triumphs (rejoices) over judgment.*



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- How should we reflect on this?
 - Doesn't the mercy of God in Christ towards us lead us to show mercy towards our fellow men, making mercy *triumph over judgment*, which we all deserve?
 - » *Matt 5:7 - Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*
 - » *Matt 9:13 - But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'*
 - » *Eph 2:4,5 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*
 - Remember, God is not only **merciful** but filled with **grace** and truth!

