

Pure Religion
The Law of Liberty – James 2:8-13
March 4, 2018

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. - **James 2:12-13**

I. THE ROYAL LAW

- The royal law is the law “belonging to the king.” Those who are “heirs of the kingdom” (James 2:5) are called to keep the king’s law.
- The royal law is the entire will of God for his people. It is the law of Moses fulfilled in Jesus Christ and now given to us in Christ’s teachings (Matt. 22:38-40; 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 5:14, Gal. 6:2).
- The opposite of the royal law, in context here in James, is partiality and favoritism (vs. 9; Lev. 19:15; Deut. 16:19; Job 34:19).

II. KEEPING THE LAW?

- God is perfect. If we hope to attain salvation by our works, we must never sin even in the smallest detail (Matt. 5:18-19; Mark 10:17-22; Gal. 5:2-4).
- Our hope is in Christ alone, not the law (Rom. 7:21-25; 8:1-4).

III. THE LAW OF LIBERTY

- Christ-followers will be judged (Matt. 25:31-46; Rom. 2:12; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:17).
- The law of liberty is, as James has already told us, the implanted word now in our hearts which has the power to save (Duet 30:14; Jer. 31:33-34; James 1:21).
- Our judgment as Christ-followers is via the law of liberty, not the law of Moses (vs. 12).
- To show no mercy indicates that the word has not been implanted in the heart. Judgment will be meted out by God in the manner in which it was displayed in our lives (Matt. 5:7; 7:1-3; 18:21-35).

KNOW: True liberty is found only in obedience to Christ. As believers, we will be judged by the law of liberty. We should rejoice in this reality, and pass judgment in the same manner.

DO: Show mercy, demonstrate love, be liberated.

Recommended Reading:

Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy by Paul David Tripp (LifePoint Library #234 TRI)
The Law of Christ by A. Blake White

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 2:8-13

1. What does James say makes up the “royal law”?
2. Why is showing partiality breaking the royal law?
3. How can committing adultery be equal to murder in James’s mind? (see verse 11)
4. According to James, if we break one law, we break them all. Why?
5. What is the law of liberty?
6. Is it true that if we refuse to grant people mercy, God will not be merciful to us? (see Matt. 6:15 & 18:35 for a parallel idea)
7. What did you learn Sunday that you can apply to your life?