

The Book of James
James 2:8-13
T.A.G. Resource

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. ¹³ For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Topic:

God’s mercy triumphs over judgment for those who believe in Jesus. How are we supposed to allow mercy to triumph over judgment in our dealing with others?

We often divide sins into “big” and “small.” How does James’s teaching in verse 10—that stumbling in one point makes us guilty of all—shift your view of personal holiness and subtle sins like partiality or gossip?

Association:

The “Royal Law” commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Who is the most difficult “neighbor” for you to show unconditional love to right now?

Knowing that your words and actions will be evaluated by the “Law of Liberty/freedom,” what changes do you need to make in how you speak to or treat people in your daily life?

James states that “mercy triumphs over judgment.” Can you share a situation where you recently had the opportunity to choose mercy over condemnation? What was the outcome?

Guidance:

Identify one practical step your group or family can take this week to extend radical hospitality or practical assistance to someone outside your typical social circle.

Cross References: Dear S

V.8—Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:37–40, Galatians 5:14, Romans 13:8–10.

V.9—Deuteronomy 1:17, Galatians 2:18, 1 John 3:4.

V.10—Matthew 5:19, Deuteronomy 27:26, Galatians 3:10.

V.11—Exodus 20:13–14, Deuteronomy 5:17–18, Matthew 5:21–28.

V.12—John 8:36, Romans 14:10–12, 2 Corinthians 5:10.

V.13—Matthew 5:7, Matthew 6:14–15, Matthew 18:32–35, Proverbs 21:13.

Pray with and for one another.