



Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!
August 3, 2025 – The Book of James
Close the Gap by loving one another!

James 2:8–13 (ESV)

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

¹¹For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

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

John 13:34–35

A new commandment I give to you, that you *love one another*: just as I have loved you, you also are to *love one another*. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have *love for one another*.”

1 John 3:11

For this is *the message that you have heard from the beginning*, that we should *love one another*.

1 John 2:7

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard.

1. You gain victory over partiality through...love!

James 2:8

→ What is the *Royal Law* according to the Scripture, “*Love your neighbor as yourself*”?

1) It is from the O.T. *Mosaic Law*: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*”. Lev. 19:9-18

2) Jesus said “*loving your neighbor*” is the second greatest commandment and it upholds the *Law and Prophets*!
Matthew 22:37–40

3) Paul said “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” *fulfills the Law*!
Romans 13:9–10

4) King Jesus gives us His New (royal) Commandment!
John 13:34–35 and 1 John 3:11

2. Partiality is sin, breaking the royal law/commandment!

James 2:9-11

> Don’t minimize or justify partiality! It is sin!

--- *Close the Gap: Love others!* ---
James 2:12-13

Two helps for “loving your neighbor”!

1) Love others with mercy and humility!

James 2:8, 12 law of liberty. John 13:34-35 “as I have loved you”

(Law of liberty). Guilt atoned! Forgiven! Indwelt with the Holy Spirit! Being perfected by God! Child of His! Part of world-wide family!

> All undeserved, unearned!

> “mercy”: kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them. *James 2:13*

2) Love others as valuable!

“neighbor”: according to Christ, any other man irrespective of race or religion with whom we live or whom we chance to meet.

This Thursday (Peavey Park) and Friday (Summer Splash) and every Sunday: say: “These are my people!”

--- *Close the Gap! Love others!* ---

Application questions on the back →

--- Close the Gap by Loving others! ---
August 3, 2025

SUNDAY after church...

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

MONDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** Read over James 2:1-7 again. Write out people or people groups that you show favoritism to. Write out why. Now list people or people groups you shun. Write out why. **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** This Sunday's verses (2:8-13) show us that loving others brings the victory over partiality or shunning towards others. From your notes and verses, write out what the royal law is. Write out how does this understanding help you stand against shunning or partiality? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

WEDNESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** From your notes write out why humility towards others is a key indicator of whether or not you are able to move towards people with love. What does humility look like? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** From your notes, write out why seeing people as valuable is so vital? What is your basis for seeing the, as valuable? How is this actually **Sanctity of Life**, just like we celebrate each January? **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

Prepare your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.