

Treat Others as You Would like to be Treated

James 2:5-13

Part 2

FAVORITISM IS NO LITTLE SIN

What you do results in what you get.

Fulfilling the royal law leads to “doing well”.

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

James 2:8 ESV

Why is it called the royal law?

It’s the royal law because the King of kings established it as law.

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18 ESV

It was ratified by Jesus as the greatest command.

...“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37-39 ESV

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

Luke 10:27-28 ESV

Doing well means acting as a doer, not a forgetful hearer.

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 1:25 ESV

Showing partiality leads to condemnation.

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

James 2:9 ESV

To show partiality means: to make *unjust distinctions* between people by treating one person better than another—‘to show favoritism’

Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament : Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989), 1:767.

God shows no partiality and is not swayed from justice by bribes or outward appearances.

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

Deuteronomy 10:17 ESV

If we are swayed by appearance or bribes, we cease to be doers of the Word.

You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God’s...

Deuteronomy 1:17 ESV

You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:19 ESV

The “little sin” of partiality has horrific consequences.

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

James 2:10 ESV

Sin, is the act of missing the mark.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **Romans 3:23 ESV**

Sin: *to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong: to wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin.*

James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996), G264.

fall short: *to be lacking in what is essential or needed—'to lack, to be in need of, to be in want.'*

Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament : Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989), 1:561.

When Christians show favoritism, they miss the mark of glorifying God just as if they had broken any other commandment.

For 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.

James 2:11 ESV

When one law is broken, the lawbreaker is guilty of breaking all God's laws.

And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' **Matthew 7:23 ESV**

To be a lawbreaker one does not have to violate all the laws, but he must keep all the law to be a law-abiding citizen, even laws that one does not like.

A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1997), Jas 2:10.

God takes His law very seriously and so should every believer.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:41-42 ESV

Every born again Christian is accountable to God.

Freedom does not negate accountability.

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

James 2:12 ESV

The gospel is the law of liberty because it frees those who place their faith in Jesus Christ from the bondage, judgment, and punishment of sin and brings them ultimately to eternal freedom and glory. It liberates us sinners from falsehood and deception and from the curses of death and hell.

John MacArthur, *James* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1998), 116.

Believers will be judged on two criteria.

1. Speech: Our words should ALWAYS promote unity and edify other believers.

Positively: Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. **Colossians 4:6 ESV**

Negatively: I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37 ESV

If the poor man and/or the rich man come into your assembly, your speech should be used to reflect the glorious Gospel of Christ.

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15 ESV

- 2. Actions: Words will prove to be empty if our lives do not back up what we say we believe.**

Think about how you can display your faith through your actions.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 ESV

Actions flow from the true or false worship already occurring in the heart.

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil...

Luke 6:45 ESV

The law of sowing and reaping always prevails.

If you show no mercy, it reveals that you will not receive mercy: you are still unsaved.

For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy...

James 2:13a ESV

If you (an undeserving sinner) have been shown mercy, you must show others the same mercy.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13b ESV

It is foolish to persist in doing evil, believing you will receive God's favor.

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

For the one who sows to his own flesh will

from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8 ESV