

SHOW JAMES

faith that works

PART FOUR

JAMES 2:1-13

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

Favouritism: bad people policy

- vs.1
- Showing the character of Jesus
- vs.2-7
- The antidote to favouritism
- vs.8

Favouritism is a sin

- vs.9
- First stage: It is natural, easy and attractive
- Second stage: It is fun and rewarding at first
- Third stage: It is painful
- vs.10-11
- Sin is what God say it is
- Is favouritism compared to the sins of adultery and murder?
- vs.12
- The law of liberty (KJV)
- Why doesn't God just spell out everything that we are to do, and everything that we are not to do?
- We are obligated to the heart and the character of God
- The law of liberty puts the burden on the liberated

Mercy overcomes favouritism

- vs.13
- Only by God's grace and mercy are we appreciated
- The story of the Parodical Son (Luke 15)

SHOW ME YOUR REGARD

The Law of Liberty

The perfect liberty found in Christ fulfils the “perfect law” of the Old Testament because Christ was the only one who could. Those who come to Him in faith now have freedom from sin's bondage and are able to obey God. Christ alone can set us free and give us true liberty (John 8:36).

The phrase “law of liberty” is found in James 1:25, 2:12 (KJV). In this portion of his epistle, James is discussing the sin of showing partiality within the church. He reminds his hearers that to show favouritism toward others is a violation of the command to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Jesus Himself reminded us that all of the Law that God gave to Moses could be summed up into one concise principle—to love God with all the heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40).

God's Word teaches plainly that all have sinned and stand condemned before God (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23). No one but Jesus Christ has ever fully obeyed the law of God. He who knew no sin became sin for us (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2Corinthians 5:21)! Christ's sacrifice on the cross has redeemed from the curse of the Law all who trust in Him by faith (Galatians 3:10-14). Believers have been justified (declared righteous) by His grace (Romans 3:24-28) and are no longer under condemnation (Romans 8:1). All who have trusted Christ have received the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). It is His power in us that gives us the ability to please God (Galatians 5:13-16).

Christ's perfect sacrifice brings release from the eternal death sentence that the Law brings upon all sinners, and it gives believers the ability to please God as we put off the works of the flesh (Colossians 3:1-9), put on love (Colossians 3:12-17), and walk in (or by) the Spirit day by day. It is by the Spirit's filling and control (Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:17-21) that we can walk in love and please our Heavenly Father.

What perfect liberty we now enjoy! What a blessed privilege to have received mercy, to be redeemed (liberated) from the bondage of sin, and to be empowered for service by our Creator! Our love for others proves the reality of our faith (1John 4:7-11). Let us love one another even as He has loved us (1John 4:19).

