

## **James 2:8-13 – How to be impartial**

TSK, Lexicon, Henry, Geneva, JFB, Family, Vincent, Robertson, PNT, Poole, Clarke, Gill, Rienecker, Gaebelin, Ellsworth, Stott, Adamson, Arnold  
Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus: **From the last time you heard a clear condemnation of those showing partiality to others with the hope of gaining some personal advantage.**

Specifically, you learned if you are partial, **you are showing a weak faith or a lacking faith.**

If you are partial, **you are showing contempt for God's people.**

If you are partial, **you hurt those who are poor or who are disadvantaged through God's providence.**

If you are partial, **you rob the Lord Jesus of his glory.**

**Today you will hear how to be *impartial* to God's children in all parts of society.**

Our headings are:

**To be impartial, you must operate from the principle of love**

**To be impartial, you must operate with the practices of love**

Our goals are: **That you will allow the love of God to fill you with love for all his people, and that you will show that love so the kingdom will grow and bring glory to the Savior.**

**To be impartial you must operate from the principle of love**

8 If you really fulfill the **royal law according to the Scripture**, "You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself," you do well;

**1. In order to be impartial and not hurt the cause of Christ, God required Christians love the poor – love in a way he commands.**

**And yes, love is command.** All the law and the prophets hang on love: (Matthew 22) love God, love your neighbor!

**Real and ardent love is not just the only ground but it is the best ground for fulfilling your duty and showing your faith.**

**And keep in mind this was a royal command-a command from the King.** (Lex Regia was a law that came from the king.)

Christians were commanded by the King to love all his children – rich and poor.

Romans 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Galatians 5:14 **For all the law is fulfilled in one word**, even in this: "**You shall love your neighbor** as yourself."

**But man had a problem: Man was naturally selfish and would live for himself alone. It was not natural to love.**

**2. In order to learn to love and be impartial, Christians were required to go to the royal law, the law God gave – the Scriptures and study it.**

No Christian – no man – can know how to love without **the Bible, in general, and the 10 laws specifically.**

Colossians 1:28 **Him we preach**, warning every man and **teaching every man in all wisdom**, that we may **present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**

**This royal law which comes from the King of kings, must not be taken lightly!**

**3. But why did Apostle James focus so much on the unjust treatment of the poor, after all, there could be godly rich people?**

The reason he focused on the injustice against the poor was because the poor were more often abused. God mentioned this often.

Leviticus 19:15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. **You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty.** In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

Deuteronomy 1:17 'You shall **not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great**; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's...

Deuteronomy 16:19 "You shall not pervert justice; **you shall not show partiality**, nor take a bribe, for a **bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.**

**Apostle James knew if a Christian were walking along the road and saw two people injured, a man dressed nicely and the other in rags**, the Christian might more likely consider helping the one who might be rich enough to give him a reward.

9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is 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 you do murder, you have **become a transgressor of the law**.

**4. If Christians didn't love according to the law of God and didn't recognize all men were valued in God's sight, but showed partiality to the rich, they were guilty of violating God's law.**

**And they are guilty of violating the whole law**, as the one who breaks one part of the law, is guilty of violating the whole law. God's law comes as a package. (The unity of the law reflects the *perfect-in-all-things* lawgiver.)

**The law is like a seamless piece of clothing**. If there is one tear, the garment is ruined.

**The law is like a golden chain**. If you break one link, the chain is ruined.

**The law is like a human body**. If one part has leprosy, it ruins the whole body. If you lose your legs, the whole body suffers.

God taught that the one who commits adultery, but didn't murder, was still guilty of breaking the 10 commands in his eyes.

**Yes, not all sins are equally heinous in God's eyes, but all sins are equally contemptible of God's authority!**

So even breaking the least of God's law was showing contempt of him.

**So those who showed partiality to the rich and contempt for the poor were guilty of breaking all of God's laws**. They were mocking God's authority to make laws!

**Some Jewish teachers taught if you obeyed one command really well, you were equal to one who kept the whole law**. But Adam only sinned in one area and brought judgment on all. So those teachers needed correction! Apostle James did that.

## **5. Lessons:**

**a. Most parents, Christian or not, show kindness to their children**. Most people, Christians or not, are attracted to their spouses. **But that is not true love**. True love can only come if you experience true love **from God alone through Christ alone**, if

you love according to God's law, and if you love with the purpose of giving glory to Jesus. So as much as the world might be kind, they don't have the right heart or right motive, and they therefore cannot truly love. They don't know true love.

**b. Christians, who have been liberated from sin, must use the law of God to love.** This means you must know what is right. Love is not a feeling. Love is an act of your will in obedience to God. Yes, it is not always easy to love some you may consider unlovely, but you must. And you will only know how to love by going to God's Word.

**c. Because all your brothers and sisters are your neighbors, don't discriminate against any of them.** Don't discriminate against a man because he is wealthy, important, or famous, and don't discriminate against a man because he is poor. Both are your brothers.

**d. Don't think you can excuse partiality as only a small sin.** It isn't a small sin. The sin of partiality comes packaged with the whole law.

**e. Obeying the royal law is not oppressive, but liberating and rewarding.** Never see God's law as an imposition! You want happiness, you want rewards, you want peace, you want God's kingdom to expand, so obey his law! This is your way of loving him. This is your way of living for him.

### **To be impartial, you must operate with the practices of love**

12 **So speak and so do** as those who will be judged by the **law of liberty**.

#### **1. Apostle James then challenged Christian to act. What actions?**

**a. Christians were to talk to the poor (words of encouragement) based on God's royal law of liberty!**

But when you see "law of liberty," **do you think this is obedience to the 10 commands?** If you do, you are wrong. **This law is not a law of outward force, but of a freed and willing spirit.** It is a law of the liberated! It is a law you can keep.

**This is why it is called the law of liberty.** Jesus freed you to keep it!

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has made me free from the law of sin and death.** 15 For you **did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,** but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**b. Christians were to act (showing kindness) based on God's law of liberty.** Love is showing mercy to the poor. James 1:27...Pure and undefiled faith is this: To visit widows and orphans in their distress...

**Speak and do are verbs in the present tense, meaning they were calls to action-right then!**

13 **For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.** Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**2. Apostle James then expanded on the action part by challenging, in an indirect way, for Christians to show mercy!**

Yes, the poor, like the rich, deserved to be punished for sins, but God wanted them to receive kindnesses.

**And since Christians were going to be judged based God's mercy,** they were expected to show mercy.

Chrysostom: "**Mercy is clothed with the divine glory, and stands by the throne of God. When we are in danger of being condemned, she rises up and pleads for us, and covers us with her defense, and enfolds us with her wings.**"

So Christians ought to show mercy!

**Jesus commended showing mercy to the poor.** He urged feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting those imprisoned. (Matthew 25:37)

**Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful,** For they shall obtain mercy.

**Jesus illustrated the need for showing mercy to the poor.**

**Matthew 18:32** "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?**' 34 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you **if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.**"

**Jesus warned about the need for showing mercy to the poor.**

Matthew 12:7 "But if you had known what this means, '**I desire mercy and not sacrifice,**' **you would not have condemned the guiltless.**

So showing partiality toward the rich and ignoring the poor for the Christian's advantage was wickedness.

### **3. Lessons:**

**a. There is a varying degree of rewards on Judgment Day.** How much will you get? Consider how many good works you have done. They should be more than you can remember.

**b. Because you wouldn't want God to unfairly judge you (like ignoring what Jesus did for you and instead declaring you condemned), you are not to unfairly judge anyone.**

**c. If you show no mercy to God's children, don't expect to receive God's mercy on Judgment Day. Even in this life, if you ignore the cries of God's people, God will ignore your cries.** Proverbs 21:13.

**d. If you show no mercy to God's children, it is likely because you have not received mercy yourself.** Check your own heart. If you have not received mercy, ask for it.

**e. When love is made complete in you, you will know you will have a better Judgment Day.**

**f. "Mouth mercy" is cheap.** You are rich. You received rich mercy. Share it.

### **Conclusion:**

You combat the sin of partiality by **operating from the principles of love and the practicing those principles.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. You have been gloriously set free from your spiritual bondage by Christ and brought into the Royal family with the Royal Law.** This law was: "Receive what Jesus did for you and live liberated lives."

**2. So live like you have been liberated. Don't mistreat the poor.** Treat them fairly. They are blood-bought children too. Let them see God's mercy in you. On the other hand, **don't treat the rich as if everything is good with them.** It isn't. They need the law of liberty.

You will sentence the rich to death if you make them think their lives are safe when they aren't.

**3. And then help others to find liberty.** Tell them about Jesus. Tell them they can't be saved by obedience and good works because they can't obey and do good. And if you can't go to them, send others. Send them with your prayers and your finances.

Finally: The law of liberty, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, gives instructions that, if followed, would give you freedom. What specifically does it say? It says, receive what Jesus offers! He offers his life and death as yours. If you ask, you will be freed forever.