

The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

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If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 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. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:8-13

2

Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

1. You do well if you obey the law by loving others including the poor (v.8)
 - Loving others is commanded in Scripture (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39-40).
 - This is a summary of what Jesus commanded his followers to do with regard to others (Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:14).
 - What is "the royal law"? It is the law as fulfilled by and reinterpreted by Christ.

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Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

1. You do well if you obey the law by loving others including the poor (v.8)
2. But you are guilty of breaking God's law if you show favoritism (v.9-11)
 - Showing favoritism is breaking the law (v.9).
 - Even disobeying just one command is transgression (v.10).
 - The reason that obedience to the law matters is because it is the word of God (v.11)

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Mercy Triumphs over Judgment

1. You do well if you obey the law by loving others including the poor (v.8)
2. But you are guilty of breaking God's law if you show favoritism (v.9-11)
3. Therefore speak and act knowing that you will be judged according to the gospel (v.12-13)
 - Christians will face judgment (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10), where they will find mercy and not condemnation (Romans 8:1).
 - The law of liberty is the words and teachings of Jesus, which promise mercy to those who put their faith in him.

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