



James 2:8-13

Mercy and Compassion Consistently Mark True Followers of Jesus

The blessing of love in contrast to the condemnation of partiality (2:8-9)

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

- ▶ “royal law” - God-given truth of Scripture that belongs to those who are heirs of the kingdom
 - ▶ James 2:5
- ▶ James refers to Scripture and quotes from the Old Testament book of Leviticus.
 - ▶ Leviticus 19:18
- ▶ This passage was also referenced by Jesus when he was asked about the greatest commandment.
 - ▶ Matthew 22:36-39

The blessing of love in contrast to the condemnation of partiality (2:8-9)

- ▶ Such care and concern should be shown anyone.
 - ▶ Matthew 7:12
- ▶ James also shows that love from God and for God will also manifest itself in love of others.
- ▶ Paul makes the same point.
 - ▶ Romans 13:9
 - ▶ Galatians 5:14
- ▶ “*doing well*” - genuine care and concern are shown without favoritism or hypocrisy
- ▶ The stirring of the Spirit of God within inspires love and concern for people even when they are poor and unsavory.

The blessing of love in contrast to the condemnation of partiality (2:8-9)

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

- ▶ Showing preferential treatment to people based on selfish comfort is a sinful violation of the law of love.
 - ▶ Galatians 3:28
- ▶ Walking in the Spirit should produce supernatural care and concern for others.
 - ▶ Matthew 5:46-48
- ▶ Jesus was characterized by His care and concern for the unsavory and His followers should be as well.
 - ▶ Luke 7:34
 - ▶ Luke 15:1
- ▶ Gospel grace and saving faith unite us with Jesus in displays of love and compassion.

Minimalizing sin is foolish (10-11)

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

- ▶ Diligence in all areas, with the exception of being biased and showing favoritism, still categorizes you as a lawbreaker.

11 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.

- ▶ It is not permissible to do many things well, but only do a few things poorly.
- ▶ When we sin in any capacity, we are violators of the integrity of the entire law of God.
 - ▶ God desires for us to see our need of gospel grace and press into Jesus.
 - ▶ Humble dependence should characterize our conduct in life in all areas.
 - ▶ You may look good, but if you don't love and care for all the people crossing your path, including the unsavory, you are transgressing the law.

Condemnation awaits the heartless and salvation awaits the merciful (12-13)

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

- ▶ Our speech and our actions are not to put pride and superiority on display.
 - ▶ Luke 6:45
- ▶ James is not presenting the need of perfection, but he need of humble perseverance in progressive sanctification.
 - ▶ James 1:25

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

- ▶ When we are not merciful to others, we deny our own need of mercy before God.
 - ▶ Matthew 5:6-7
- ▶ Being unmerciful and unforgiving is sinful matter of the heart.
 - ▶ Matthew 6:14-15
- ▶ The manifestation of partiality and favoritism is a display of hard-hearted selfishness.
 - ▶ Galatians 6:7

Condemnation awaits the heartless and salvation awaits the merciful (12-13)

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- ▶ For recipients of forgiveness through gospel grace, mercy triumphs over judgment.
- ▶ When we are merciful to the unsavory, we show mercy triumphing over judgment.

Questions to Consider

- ▶ How are you violating the law of love with favoritism and partiality?
- ▶ What areas of needed change are you blinding yourself to by thinking you are doing so many other things well?
- ▶ In what ways are you seeing your heart evidence the reality of personal gospel transformation by the merciful words and actions you show toward the unsavory in your world?



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