

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

James 2:8-13

8/25/21

James 2:8–13

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 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. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Passage Summary

James continues to develop what it means to live by the wisdom of God rather than the wisdom of the world by exploring the practical topic of partiality. He does so in these verses through the example of how a person is often treated relative to their external appearance even within the church. James points out that judging by externals puts us at odds with God and contrary to His values. James 2:8-13 centers in upon the value God assigns to love for others. James builds the argument that we should love others because of our relationship to Jesus, our relationship to others, our relationship to the law of God (and therefore His character), and our relationship to God personally.

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don't feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

James 2:8

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

- James describes “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” as the “royal law”. What are some other “laws” in Scripture to which Jesus gravitated or emphasized more than others?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor?
- In reference to the phrase “as yourself” – how do we love ourselves? In what ways do you find it difficult to love others in the manner that you love yourself?

James 2:9

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

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James 2:10–11

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

- Why is it so important to keep the whole law?
- What parts of the law are difficult for you to keep?
- Are there parts of the law that we do not need to keep anymore? If so, then doesn't that violate the nature of God? Why or why not?

James 2:12–13

¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- Are believers going to be judged? If so, then on what basis?
- How does the law promote liberty?
- What are some "laws" in your life which have actually produced liberty for you?
- Are there some people in your life towards whom you find it difficult to show mercy?
- Is it possible to go through life without any need for mercy?
- In what ways have you been shown mercy? If so, what are some habits to implement that will help you remember the mercy you have been shown?