

## Fulfilling The Royal Law

(Part 2)  
James 2:1-13

## Two Arguments Against Partiality

### The Social Argument. James 2:5-7

- ▶ Poor have the gospel preached unto them. Matthew 11:5
- ▶ Elihu observed, *"That respecteth not the persons of princes, Nor regardeth the rich more than the poor; For they all are the work of his hands" Job 34:19*
- ▶ God has chosen *"the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to them that love him."* James 2:5

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### The Social Argument. James 2:5-7

- ▶ The poor of this world are:
    - Chosen of God. cf. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
    - Rich in faith. cf. Revelation 2:9
    - Heirs of the kingdom. cf. Matthew 5:3; 11:5
- BUT YOU have dishonored them. James 2:6

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### The Social Argument. James 2:5-7

- ▶ The rich of this world ...
    - Oppress you. cf. Acts 4:1-3
    - Drag you into court. cf. Acts 8:3
    - Blaspheme the name by which ye are called. cf. Acts 4:12
- BUT YOU have honored them. James 2:6

## Two Arguments Against Partiality

### The Moral Argument: James 2:8 *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" cf. Leviticus 19:18*

- ▶ **Royal law - basilikós:** "of or belonging to a king, kingly, royal, regal; of a man, the officer or minister of a prince, a courtier: John 4:46,49 befitting or worthy of a king" (Thayer)
- ▶ Received of the sanction of our king, Jesus Christ. cf. Matthew 22:36-40
- ▶ Illustrated with the good Samaritan. Luke 10:26-37

Demands overlooking outward distinctions!

## Showing Partiality Is Sinful James 2:9

- ▶ Judgment must be righteous. *"Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor."* Leviticus 19:15
- Contrast: John 7:24; Matthew 7:1

## Showing Partiality Is Sinful James 2:9

- ▶ Partiality violates the law, therefore sinful.  
1 John 3:4
  - Makes one a lawbreaker. James 1:10-11;  
cf. Galatians 3:10
  - "To violate the law at any one point is not to violate one commandment only; it is to violate the will of God, and to contradict the character of God."  
(Expositor's Bible Commentary)

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## Showing Partiality Is Sinful James 2:9

- ▶ Brotherly love & mercy to be exercised.  
*James 2:12 "So **speak ye**, and **so do**, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty."*
- ▶ We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- ▶ We came under the "law of liberty" (1:25), when we became "free." John 8:32
  - We shall be judged by the "law of liberty."  
cf. James 1:25
  - We shall be judged by the word of Christ. John 12:48
  - We shall be judged in righteousness. Romans 2:16;  
Acts 17:11

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## Showing Partiality Is Sinful James 2:9

- ▶ Brotherly love & mercy to be exercised.
  - *James 2:13 "For judgment (is) without mercy to him that hath showed no mercy: mercy glorieth against judgment."*
  - *Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."*
  - *Matthew 9:11-13* We need to learn what this means: "*I desire mercy and not sacrifice.*"
  - Ephesians 2:2-4 God is rich in mercy;  
cf. Paul. 1 Timothy 1:1:13-16
  - Luke 15 Example of Jesus.

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## Conclusion:

- ▶ Do you "**fulfill the royal law**" in all your relationships?
  - The gospel is for all. Matthew 28:19ff

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