

Mercy over Judgment > James 2:8-13

2:8-9 *Law-keeping?* James makes the point that loving others as we have been loved is what God’s law calls us to. Yet, the reality is that we break this law in many ways – sometimes in ways that seem “small,” yet are just as unloving and distorting. Favoritism and partiality are some of those ways.

2:10-11 *Law-breaking!* The truth is that God’s law has to be taken as a whole: we are either keepers of it or breakers of it. Since all was given by Him, we have no right to pick and choose which parts of it to keep or ignore.

2:12-13 *Law-freeing.* Here’s the good news: Christians are called to keep the law *as interpreted through Jesus*. We keep not to earn salvation, nor to stay in the faith. Rather, our keeping is meant to testify to Christ’s mercy given to us. Our own obedience can reassure us of the Spirit’s presence in us.

The Point: Favoritism is unloving toward the very people whom God cares for – it is breaking His law. Instead, we are called to reflect the mercy of Jesus in our words and actions.

Prayer: Lord, keep us from harboring any sin in our life, no matter how “small” we might be tempted to think it. Teach us to treasure your mercy and to freely offer it to others.

Application: Thank the Lord for Christ’s mercy triumphing over your own judgment and then ask Him to give you a heart that extends Christ’s mercy to others through your words and actions, particularly those you are tempted to overlook.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
