

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (2) For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, (3) and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," (4) have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? (5) Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? (6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? (7) Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? (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.

The Royal Law

Favouritism unpacked

What's wrong with favouritism?
It breaks the principle of love.

It is against God's plan for his chosen people - **Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?**

This is confirmed in 1 Cor 1:26-31

Who are we to judge the value of – when all are subjects of grace not deserving

An example of this is found in Gal 2:11-16 where Peter is bewitched by the pride that legalism creates – and thus begins to distinguish via his own judgment.

But Paul points Peter back to the Gospel of justification by faith

The Great Leveller

A lawbreaker is a lawbreaker - all law-breaking is sin – therefore all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

This leaves all without hope of saving themselves and drives them to the only place of hope - Christ

This is Jodie's story of coming to faith – from this passage.

The Royal Law

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

Love is the ‘bread and butter’ of Christianity. We must not tire from proclaiming and living this

Doing right/doing well seen also in Acts 15:29

The law that gives freedom (vs 12)

The law is the outworking of the character of God Himself – and so we are freed to obey – and live in the fullness it is to obey.

Gal 5:1

Mercy triumphs over judgement

Through forgiveness, through atonement, through propitiation – the Gospel

And this has an outworking in the Christian life – we are not super-spiritual – but grounded in reality – action - grace and truth.

1 John 3:18 – which brings assurance – 1 John 3:19