

## James 2:1–13



1 My brothers and sisters, do not show prejudice if you possess faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. 2 For if someone comes into your assembly wearing a gold ring and fine clothing, and a poor person enters in filthy clothes, 3 do you pay attention to the one who is finely dressed and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and to the poor person, “You stand over there,” or “Sit on the floor”? 4 If so, have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil motives? 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! Did not God choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor! Are not the rich oppressing you and dragging you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme the good name of the one you belong to? 8 But if you fulfill the royal law as expressed in this scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show prejudice, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as violators. 10 For the one who obeys 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.” Now if you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a violator of the law. 12 Speak and act as those who will be judged by a law that gives freedom. 13 For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment.

## The Royal Law

1. Define *prejudice* (2:1) [Gr. *prosopolepsia*].
2. Why would some “pay attention” to the rich man (2:3)?
3. How and why did God choose the poor of this world (2:5)?
4. What is the *good name*? Why is it *noble* (2:7)?
5. Define *blaspheme* (2:7) [Gr. *blasphemeo*].
6. What is the *royal law*? What makes it *royal* (2:8)?
7. How can one be “guilty of all” by stumbling in one point (2:10)?
8. What is the “law that gives freedom” (2:12)?
9. Define *mercy* (2:13) [Gr. *eleos*].