

The Royal Law

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I. Introduction.

- A. The Bible is a mirror.
- B. All that we can really do for others is teach, pray and model.
- C. The book of James is an explanation of the tests you and I must face and pass to have the kind of faith we are to have.
- D. Sometime between the crucifixion and Pentecost, the light went on for James. (Acts 1; 15; 21; Galatians 1-2)
- E. There are four areas of Christian maturity.
- F. Tests faced and passed in these areas bring contentment.

II. Interpersonal relationships. (James 1:21-27; 2:8-26; 3:13-18; 4:17)

A. The royal law anticipated. Required attitudes: holiness, meekness, consistency, sincerity and generosity.

B. The royal law articulated.

- 1. We cannot love others unless we ourselves have a healthy self-image.
 - a. Extreme 1: the ego trip.
 - b. Extreme 2: the inferiority complex that is an inverted form of pride. (Romans 12:3)
 - c. People become what we believe they become. (John 1:42)
- 2. We cannot love others if we see ourselves to be holier than others do.
- 3. We cannot love others if we do not forgive.

C. The royal law illustrated.

- 1. God expects us to pass tests in our most intimate relationships.
- 2. God expects us to pass tests with our enemies.

D. Application.

1. Who you associate with is as important as what you believe.

2. If we do not do good that we know, it is sin.

III. Money. (James 1:9-15; 2:1-7; 4:1-10, 13-16; 5:1-6)

IV. The tongue. (James 1:19-20, 26; 3:1-12; 4:11-12; 5:18-20)

V. Being rightly related to God in prayer. (James 1:5-8, 16-18; 5:16-18)

Application questions:

1. How can an inferiority complex be a form of pride?

2. What kind of tests have you faced regarding the royal law? Explain.

3. What good has God put on your heart that you have neglected? How will you fulfill it? Explain.
