

Our Works Part 2

James 2:8

Intro Series, [Wisdom, Folly & In-between. Themes of James](#); 1. God's work, 2. Faith Works, 3. Our Work, 4. Our Folly, 5. Our Words.

[James 2:8, Pg. 1011 in the Pew Bibles.](#)-

-2 weeks ago, Our Works. **Read James 1:25, Be a doer!**

-Last week we looked at our folly; Partiality. *"You can't call yourself a Christian and be a snob. Real Christians are known by their love."*

And right in the middle of James rebuking the church for their snobbery he says this...

Read Text, James 2:8,

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well."

Refer to 1:25, "Law of Liberty", Speak & Act as those who are free. Here's How....

Royal Law. The greek word, royal here is, bas-il-ee-kos'; belonging to a king, kingly, royal, regal, which basically means kingly or Messianic based on the OT use in the Septuagint, sometimes referred to as the Greek Old Testament or The Translation of the Seventy and often abbreviated as LXX, is the earliest Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. So basically, The Kings Law or The Messiahs Law. "If you really fulfill Jesus' Law, the royal regal law... You are doing well! Who wants to do well? Then do this; **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"**.

Besides, this is who you are... Royalty!

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But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

James quotes from Jesus in Matthew 22:35-40

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:35-40

Love God with all that you are! As I mentioned before, James assumes his audience. He is speaking to Christians! Therefore, he assumes a love for God, which makes sense, because for us as a church, there is a similar vibe. Y'all love God, right?

Note what it says in Mat, up on the screen. **The second is like it.** They are synonymous. They work together. If you truly Love God then YOU WILL love your neighbor. 1 John makes this clear...

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:20-21

If you say you love God, then you will love your neighbor!

Look at **Matthew 22** again. **"On these two commandments DEPEND ALL the Law and the Prophets."**

John Piper says, *"Everything else in the Old Testament in some sense depends on these two commandments: the commandment to love God and the*

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commandment to love our neighbor. This is an amazing statement. We have the authority of the Son of God here telling us something utterly stupendous about the origin and design of the entire plan and Word of God."

*"Now those are the two stupendous things we need to ponder before we dive into the overwhelming commandment to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. I say it is overwhelming because it seems to demand **that I tear the skin off my body and wrap it around another person** so that I feel that I am that other person; and all the longings that I have for my own safety and health and success and happiness I now feel for that other person as though he were me."*

"It is an absolutely staggering commandment. If this is what it means, then something unbelievably powerful and earthshaking and reconstructing and overturning and upending will have to happen in our souls. Something supernatural. Something well beyond what self-preserving, self-enhancing, self-exalting, self-esteeming, self-advancing human beings like (us) can do on their own."¹

We need the Spirit of God to revive our hearts to fulfill this royal Law! We need the mind of Christ!

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:3-5

GOSPEL

who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/love-your-neighbor-as-yourself-part-1>

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humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:6-11

Wisdom on how love your neighbor from Proverbs

Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.

Do not plan evil against your neighbor, who dwells trustingly beside you. Proverbs 3:28-29

So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished. Proverbs 6:29

With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. Proverbs 11:9

Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. Proverbs 11:12

One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, Proverbs 25:8-9

Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you. Proverbs 25:17

Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I am only joking!" Proverbs 26:18-19

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Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing. Proverbs 27:14

“Hey Neighbor” Initiative

1. FIND a way to PRAY

- Set up “prayer box” at the church
- Set one up at home
- Pray together on Fridays!

2. SEEK a way to SERVE

-From the requests we get, seek a way to serve our neighbors in hopes that we can build relationships and...

3. TELL them about JESUS

- Invite to Find and Follow Jesus!