**Peter hesitant / reluctant to minister to non-Jews.** Acts 10:34-35

1. **Prioritize The ROYAL LAW**

***8****If you really keep the* ***royal law*** *found in Scripture, “Love your* ***neighbor*** *as yourself,” you are doing right.* James 2:8

**Moses said:** ***5****Love the Lord your God with all your* ***heart****and with all your* ***soul*** *and with all your* ***strength****.****6****These commandments that I give you today are to be on your* ***hearts****.****7****Impress them on your* ***children****. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* Deuteronomy 6:5-7

**Key: Parents & Grandparents: Model ‘Loving God’ To Next Generation.**

**Jesus said: *37****Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your* ***heart*** *and with all your* ***soul*** *and with all your* ***mind****.’****38****This is the first and greatest commandment.****39****And the second is like it: ‘****Love******your neighbor*** *as yourself.’*Matthew 22:37-40

***9****But if you show favoritism,****you sin*** *and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.* James 2:8-9

***10****For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is* ***guilty of breaking all of it.******11****For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.* James 2:8-11

1. **Embrace GOD’S MERCY**

***12****Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,****13because judgment without mercy*** *will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.****Mercy triumphs over judgment****.* James 2:12-13

**Mercy**. kindness and compassion; context of God’s not punishing us as our sins deserve. Mercy is often equated with a deliverance from judgment

**Grace** includes kindness and compassion, but also carries the idea of bestowing a gift or favor… extending a blessing to one who is unworthy.

**JAMES 2:1-13: COMING TOGETHER IN A WORLD TEARING US APART…**

**April 18th, 2021**

1. **Eliminate Our Personal DISCRIMINATION.**

*My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show* ***favoritism****.* James 2:1

v1. *Favoritism. Gk: prosoprolempsia* = being a favorite.

Other translations use: Partiality. Prejudice. Snobbery. Discrimination

***2****Suppose a man comes into your* ***meeting*** *wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.*  James 2:2

***3****If you show* ***special attention*** *to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,”****4****have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?* James 2:3-4

***5****Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: 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?****6****But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?****7****Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?* James 2:5-7

**Paul wrote letter to Rome:** *For God does not show* ***favoritism****.* Rom 2:11

**Paul to Timothy, young pastor:** *I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to* ***do nothing out of favoritism****.* 1 Timothy 5:21