

With Liberty & Justice for All
James 2:1-13; Phil.2:5-11

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 If America has a national historic theme, it is probably freedom/liberty
- 0.2 “Law of liberty” – is this an oxymoron?
- 0.3 And what does *that* have to do with prejudice toward others?

1.0 Law and Liberty

- 1.1 The Christian and liberty (Gal.2:4) – from slavery to sin, and obsession with legalism
- 1.2 Law of Spirit of Life in Christ (Rom.8:2) > law of sin & death
- 1.3 Truth brings liberty (Jn.8:32) – from self-deception and its fruits
- 1.4 Fulfill law of Christ by helping others carry life-burdens (Gal.6:2)
- 1.5 Avoid using freedom to cover for evil (I Pet.2:16)
- 1.6 If God’s Law expresses his perfect & holy character...

2.0 Liberty Toward Others

- 2.1 Attitude modeled on Jesus’ attitude (Phil.2:5)
- 2.2 Liberty to respect all persons, regardless of status (Jas.2:2-4)
- 2.3 What kinds of motives lie behind such distinctions? (v.4)
- 2.4 God’s attitude toward the poor (v.5)
- 2.5 “Love your neighbor” (v.8 = Lev.19:18; Second Table of Law)

3.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 3.1 Speak and act with liberty (v.12) – including merciful attitude
- 3.2 Let’s build up what Jesus has freed up

Next week (Feb.28) – Learning from Rahab - Jas.2:14-26

James 2:1-13 (NASB)

The Sin of Partiality

2 My brothers *and sisters*, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring *and is dressed* in bright clothes, and a poor man in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the bright clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good *place*,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers *and sisters*: did God not choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the good name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling 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 violators. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole Law, yet stumbles in one *point*, has become guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “DO NOT MURDER.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but do murder, you have become a violator of the Law. ¹² So speak, and so act, as those who are to be judged by *the* law of freedom. ¹³ For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NASB)

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself *by* taking the form of a bond-servant *and* being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.