

**Wed PM – 6/13/2012**  
**"The Law of Liberty" – James 4:11b**

Read James 4:7-11

Review the 10 Verbs in the Imperative mood, verses 7-10

VERSE 7: SUBMIT (AImp. of *hupotasso*)

RESIST (AAImp. of *anthistemi*)

VERSE 8: DRAW NEAR (AAImp. of *hegizo*)

CLEANSE YOUR HANDS (AAImp. of *katharizo*)

PURIFY YOUR HEARTS

(AAImp. of *hagnizo*; MEANING: *WHOLEHEARTED SEPARATION OR SANCTIFICATION*)

VERSE 9: BE MISERABLE (AAImp. of *talaiporeo*)

MOURN (AAImp. of *pentheo*)

WEEP (AAImp. of *klaio*)

LET YOUR LAUGHTER BE TURNED TO

MOURNING, YOUR JOY TO GLOOM (AImp. of *metatrepo*)

VERSE 10: HUMBLE YOURSELVES (AImp. 2nd p. pl. of *tapeinoo*)

Look at the 1st two parts of verse 11:

a) *Speak not evil, one of another brothers* KATA = down + LALEO = speak; this means literally to speak down, translated *speak evil*.

ME - negative adverb = *no* or *do not*, combined with the imperative verb KATALALEO (*DO NOT SPEAK DOWN*); this means do not *speak down* on someone, or slander them. This means STOP DOING what you are already doing.

b) *The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law.* This same word KATALALEO is used in a slightly different form (KATALALON) than in the (a) part (KATALALEITE).

We are so gifted at putting others down so easily because of the influence of our sinful natures. STOP TALKING IDLY, EXCESSIVELY, FOOLISHLY, STOP BABBLING or CHATTERING.

Great minds discuss IDEAS

Average minds discuss EVENTS

Small minds discuss PEOPLE

James is now speaking to people who had small minds.

What is LAW?

- Any thing established, a rule of action, or a rule of action prescribed by reason.
- Moral instruction
- A precept concerning any subject, for example, the precept of LOVE.

## ROYAL LAW:

### I. LIBERTY - FREEDOM

This is the law of freedom to do certain things based upon the Word of God and your understanding of it, things that will not adversely affect your relationship to Him.

### II. LOVE

This involves our responsibility to the weaker, or the legalistic believer, so you must curb your freedoms afforded by the law of liberty.

### III. EXPEDIENCY

The unbeliever often has ideas about what the believer should be doing, but we must not become a stumbling block for them by insistence on our freedom to do certain things that don't hinder our relationship with the Lord. The most important thing is that the unbelieving person sees the importance of becoming saved by faith alone in Christ alone.

### IV. SUPREME SACRIFICE

This involves the forsaking of a perfectly legitimate way of life in order to properly fulfill God's Plan for the life. Examples of this include missionaries, sometimes deacons, evangelists, and pastors.

## ROYAL LOVE

### I. LOVE IS WHAT GOD IS

### II. ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF SALVATION = MAXIMUM LOVE

### III. ROYAL LOVE NEVER DEPENDS ON US

### IV. CATEGORIES OF LOVE – God/Companion/Friends

### V. NEW TESTAMENT WORDS – agape, agapao (Love of the mind); philos, phileo, rapport (total soul love)

### VI. DISTINCTION BETWEEN AGAPE AND PHILOS

### VII. Gal. 5:22; I John 3:11; I Corinthians 13 - agape love commanded

### VIII. PHILOS LOVE DEPENDS UPON MATURITY John 16:27

## Points Continued from Last Sunday's Message on James 4:11 b:

1. This part of the verse says: "The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law..." The word for speaking against is the same root word KATALALEO. The word LAW is a noun without a definite article, emphasizing the qualitative aspect of the word LAW. This is the law of freedom, the law of love.
2. The meaning of the word LAW is determined by its context, which is revealed back in James 1:25 – 2:12, where it talks about the *law of freedom*. How *incredibly blessed* we are to have freedom to study God's Word without serious persecution at this time!
3. Freedom is a function of God's Grace.

4. Slander, on the other hand is maligning and judging the principle of the Grace life. This is the law of love, as we see in Romans 12:10, 1 Corinthians 12:25 and in Galatians 6:2, God wants us to love one another, bearing each other's burdens. We see this in Ephesians 4:2, 25, Col 3:13 1Thessalonians 5:15, Hebrews 10:24, 1 Peter 4:8 and 1John 4:7,11
5. Sins of the tongue become an attack on the privacy of another believer.
6. A mature life is a life in control of the proper use of the tongue.
7. Mental attitude sins and sins of the tongue are among the worst described in the Bible.
8. When people get out of harmony with the Lord, some of the first things they do is to start nit picking, gossiping, maligning and slandering.
9. Often we run others down in order to build ourselves up on a pinnacle.
10. The Bible Plan for our lives is to set aside judging, maligning and slander. The Grace Plan is the best plan

Scriptures on the Law of Liberty and the Law of Love: In James 2:8 and 12, if you really fulfill the Royal law you love your neighbor as yourself, and live as those who are being judged under the Laws of Liberty and Love (Gal 5:13, 14).

James does not define the Law of Liberty in Chapter 1, but in James 2 he begins to sound very similar to the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5. For both of them, love is described as the natural fruit of being justified by faith. Love becomes the kind of law that governs us when we are *freed from condemnation* by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So we can see that James and Paul are saying about the same things: how we treat others is evidence of our relationship to the Lord.

If the Lord has set us free from sin's condemnation and dominion, then we live in liberty. And in this liberty there is a law: the Law of Liberty, which is the Law of Love, and of Grace. It is the Law of Freedom.

Law of Love, Law of Grace, and Law of Freedom: we will be judged under this law. The scripture tells us not to show partiality or play favorites on the basis of race or riches, or anything else.

Look again at the (b) part of this verse:

*"The one speaking (present active participle) against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law".*

Next Sunday, we look at the subject of judging.

The Word of God is very practical, and very helpful to us.