

Removing the stains of this world purifies our hearts and cleanses our religion.

- (1) Remove the stain of favoritism in our fellowship so that God may clean our thoughts and motives, 2:1-4.
- (2) Remove the stain of favoritism in our love so that we may live right before God and man, 2:5-11.
- (3) Remove the stain of favoritism in our moral code so that we may win in mercy, 2:12-13.

We are not under the law ...

- (Romans 3:19 ESV) Now we know that **whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law**, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
- (Galatians 5:18 ESV) But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law.**
- (Romans 6:14 ESV) For sin will have no dominion over you, **since you are not under law but under grace.**
- (Romans 6:15 ESV) What then? Are we to sin **because we are not under law but under grace?** By no means!

What is the "law of liberty" ...

- **The Law** is the Pentateuch is the Torah. The writings of Moses. Genesis through Deuteronomy. The word law is sometimes used to refer to the entire Old Testament. The word law in both the OT and NT usually focuses on the commands and regulations of the Mosaic covenant.
- **The law of liberty in our text** seems to refer not to the Torah as such, but to Jesus' interpretation of the law/Torah/Pentateuch.
- **The clearest examples of this** are in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 where Jesus gives a series of—"You have heard ... But I say" where he explains and expands upon the OT instruction.
- **And also in Matthew 22:35-40** where Jesus summarized and prioritized the OT commands to: "Love God, love neighbor." James follows Christ's teaching here and states the royal law as "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- **It seems then that whatever the law of liberty includes,** it has to fit within the scope of the second great command which of course fits under the first command.
- **Conclusion: The law of liberty and the royal law are the same** as they seem to be in complete agreement in spirit and in purpose.



washing away the filth of a deceived heart ...