

Next Week Sermon

**Knowing the Heart of
God - Why He Chooses
the Poor (Part 2)**

James 2:5-17

PREACHER

Dr. Peter Ng

March 19, 2023

**Joy and the
Knowledge of
God**

1 John 1-4

PREACHER

William Ngeow

March 26, 2023

**Dealing with
the Enemy
Within**

1 John 1:5-10

PREACHER

John Lee

KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD
WHY HE CHOOSES THE POOR PT

2

JAMES 2:7-17



FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA21

GAMMA
SERIES

BOOK
OF
JAMIES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

- Started Wednesday
- March 2 2023 onwards
- Contact Church office

Biblical Principle

James 2:1-7 1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"

Example

4 have you not then made distinctions and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Reasoning

James 2:8-17 (ESV) If you really fulfill 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 transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

PART 1 GOD'S CHARACTER

- 1) True faith has no place for partiality
- 2) The basis of partiality is judgement
- 3) We are neither qualified nor entitled to judge others
- 4) We need to see ourselves in the light of Christ

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

PART 2 GOD'S LAW

- 1) Partiality against the poor breaks the heart of God's law
- 2) We cannot pick and choose which laws to obey
- 3) Christ fulfilled the law to give us the freedom to love
- 4) Our challenge: Action matters, words don't

1. PARTIALITY AGAINST THE POOR BREAKS THE HEART OF GOD'S LAW



James 2:8-9 If you really fulfill 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 transgressors



Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

FIRST MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW



but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:,

but you shall love your neighbor as you love
yourself

INDUSTRY OF SELF LOVE

“If you don’ t love yourself how are you going to love anyone else?”



SELF ESTEEM

Self-love means having a high regard for your own well-being and happiness. Self-love means taking care of your own needs and not sacrificing your well-being to please others. Self-love means not settling for less than you deserve.

JEFFREY BORENSTEIN, MD

FIRST MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW



but you shall love your neighbor as yourself;

The words are not a command to love yourself; they are an assumption: love your neighbor as you already love yourself

THE FOCUS IS THE OTHER

Ephesians 5:28–29 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,



Luke 9:23-25 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.





2 Timothy 3:1-4 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

NARCISSISM



SECOND MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW

“but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:,”

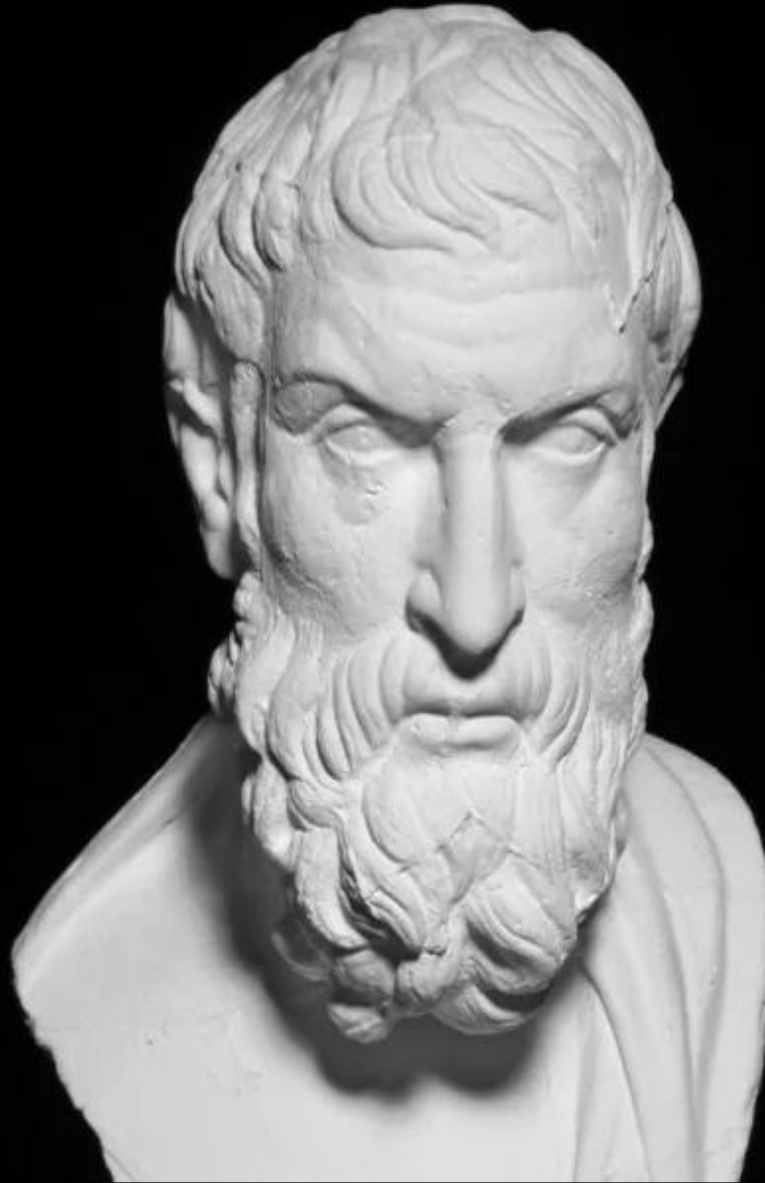


Do not do to others what you wouldn't want them to do to you.”

Rabbi Hillel



Epictetus



Confucius



IT IS POSITIVE ACTION NOT NEGATIVE OMISSION



James 2:8-9 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are convicted and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

The care expended on ourselves

How you would like them to treat you

Matthew 7:12 So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.



WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

James 2:8-9 If you really fulfill 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 transgressors

ETHNIC

Luke 10



SOCIAL

James 2





JEW-- GENTILE

Ephesians 2:14 For
he himself is our
peace, who has made
us both one and has
broken down in his
flesh the dividing
wall of hostility



Race

Language

Culture

Religion

Social class

The gospel breaks down these barriers and makes it possible
It starts with you



REVELATION 7:9-11 AFTER THIS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD NUMBER, FROM EVERY NATION, FROM ALL TRIBES AND PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND BEFORE THE LAMB, CLOTHED IN WHITE ROBES, WITH PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS, 10 AND CRYING OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, AND TO THE LAMB!" 1

PERSON OF THE YEAR

TIME

THE EBOLA FIGHTERS

Dr. Kent Brantly

The Texas physician, 33, was running an Ebola treatment center in Monrovia when he became the first American to be infected



CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN MEDIA PUNDIT



"I don't care about anything else; Christ died for my sins, and nothing else matters."

Ann Coulter

EBOLA DOC'S CONDITION DOWNGRADED TO 'IDIOTIC'



Ann Coulter

- Waste of resources to spend on the missionary
- Better spent ministering in USA more impact of gospel
- Charity begins at home
- Trying to be hero



“If Dr. Brantly had practiced at Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles and turned one single Hollywood power-broker to Christ, he would have done more good for the entire world than anything he could accomplish in a century spent in Liberia.”

PERSON OF THE YEAR

THE

THE
EBOLA
FIGHTERS

Dr. Kent Brantly

The Texas physician, 33, was running an Ebola treatment center in Monrovia when he became the first American to be infected



*"This is about our great,
loving, compassionate
God who has called us to
love our neighbors"*



INCARNATIONAL MODEL

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



LOST SHEEP

Luke 15:4 (ESV) What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?



LOST SON

Luke 15:20 (ESV) And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him

Totally illogical



LOST COIN

Luke 15:8 if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it



PRECIOUSNESS OF THE NEIGHBOR

LOST SHEEP

Luke 15:6-7 (ESV) Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.



LOST SON

Luke 15:32 (ESV) It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' ”

Focus is on the
lost one

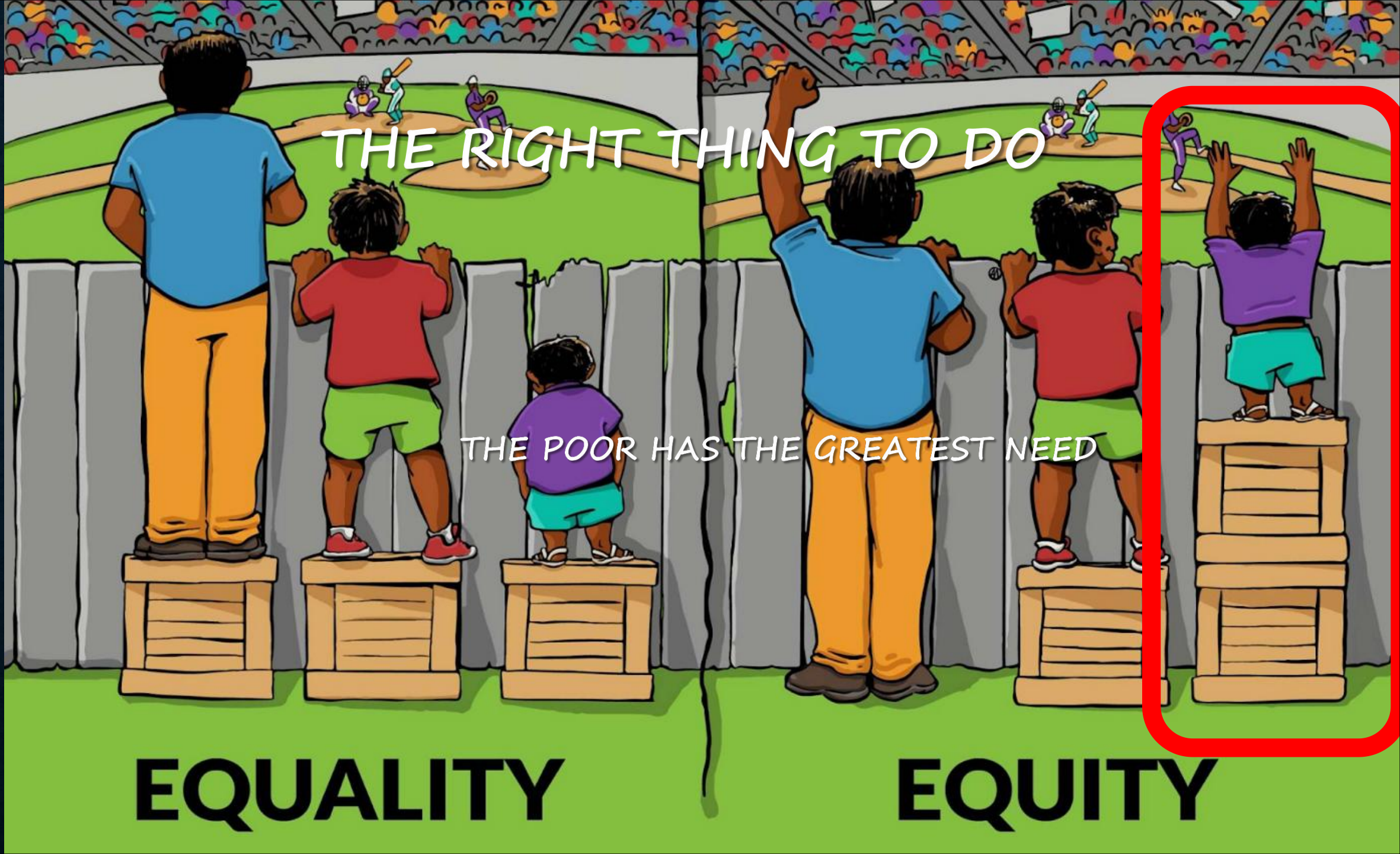


LOST COIN

Luke 15 : 9b Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'

There is no issue of how he
became poor—deserving of help?

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 “If among you, one of your
brothers should become poor, in any of your towns
within your land that the Lord your God is giving
you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your
hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open
your hand to him and
lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be



THE RIGHT THING TO DO

THE POOR HAS THE GREATEST NEED

EQUALITY

EQUITY

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

PART 2 GOD'S LAW

1) Partiality against the poor breaks the heart of
God's law

2) We cannot pick and choose which laws to obey

3) Christ fulfilled the law to give us the freedom to
love

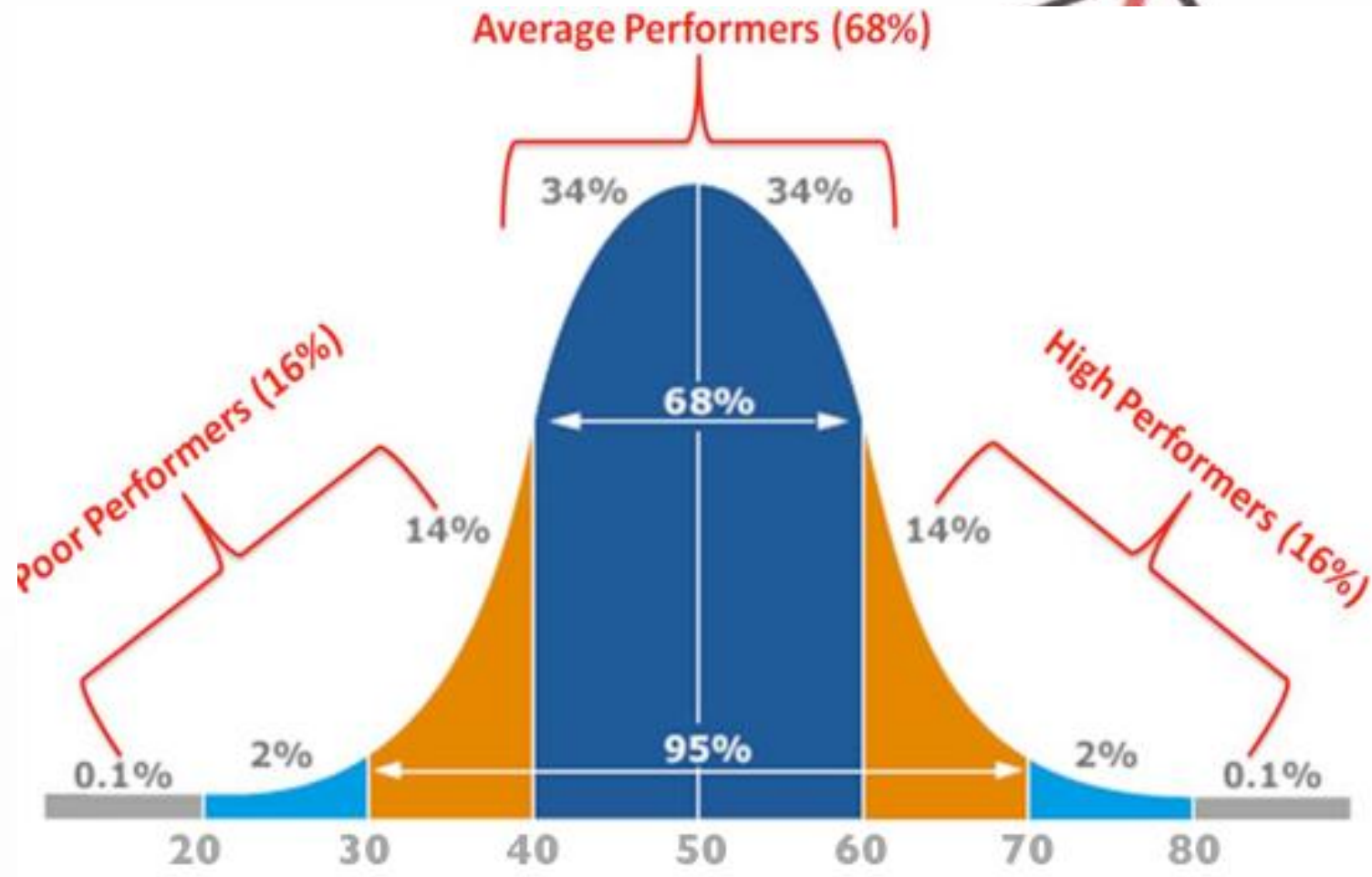
4) Our challenge: Action matters, words don't

2. WE CANNOT PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH LAWS TO OBEY

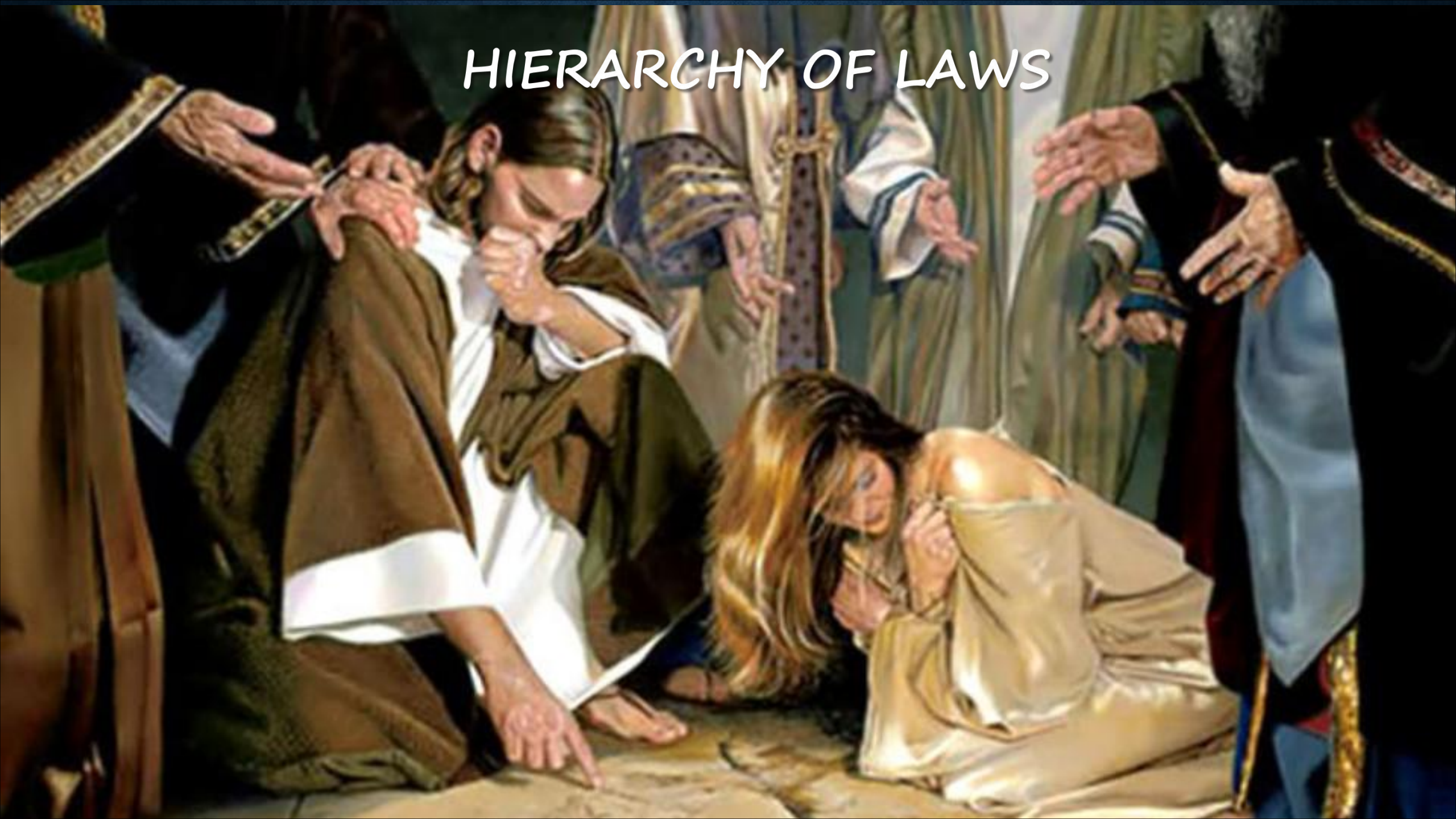


James 2:10-11 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law

SINS OF OMISSION



HIERARCHY OF LAWS





CHURCH IS SHOCKED



- Adultery
- Sexual sins
- Divorce
- Homosexuality

Researchers find
wealthy people tend to
overlook those around
them



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Love Man

Love God

1 You shall have no other gods before Me.

2 You shall not make idols.

3 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold anyone who takes His name in vain.

4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

5 Honor your father and your mother.

Your neighbor is not a mere object to be lusted after, murdered, or stolen from. He or she is your fellow image-bearer

6 You shall not murder.

7 You shall not commit adultery.

8 You shall not steal.

9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10 You shall not covet.

THE BROAD APPLICATION OF THE LAW



Matthew 5:21-22 You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.



Isaiah 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

MURDERERS - LITERAL OR METAPHORICAL?



Isaiah 1:21-23 How the faithful city has become a

THEY CLOSED THEIR HEARTS TO THE POOR

Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them



SERIOUS MATTER

Social injustice to the poor is just
as bad a murder or adultery

A man wearing a white shirt and a black cap is speaking at a podium. The podium features the coat of arms of Malaysia. He is gesturing with his right hand, pointing upwards. The background is a dark, patterned wall.

RM 1.2 Trillion Debt

*The poor who
will suffer*

I am OK ?

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR MEANS SOCIAL JUSTICE



Isaiah 1:16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause



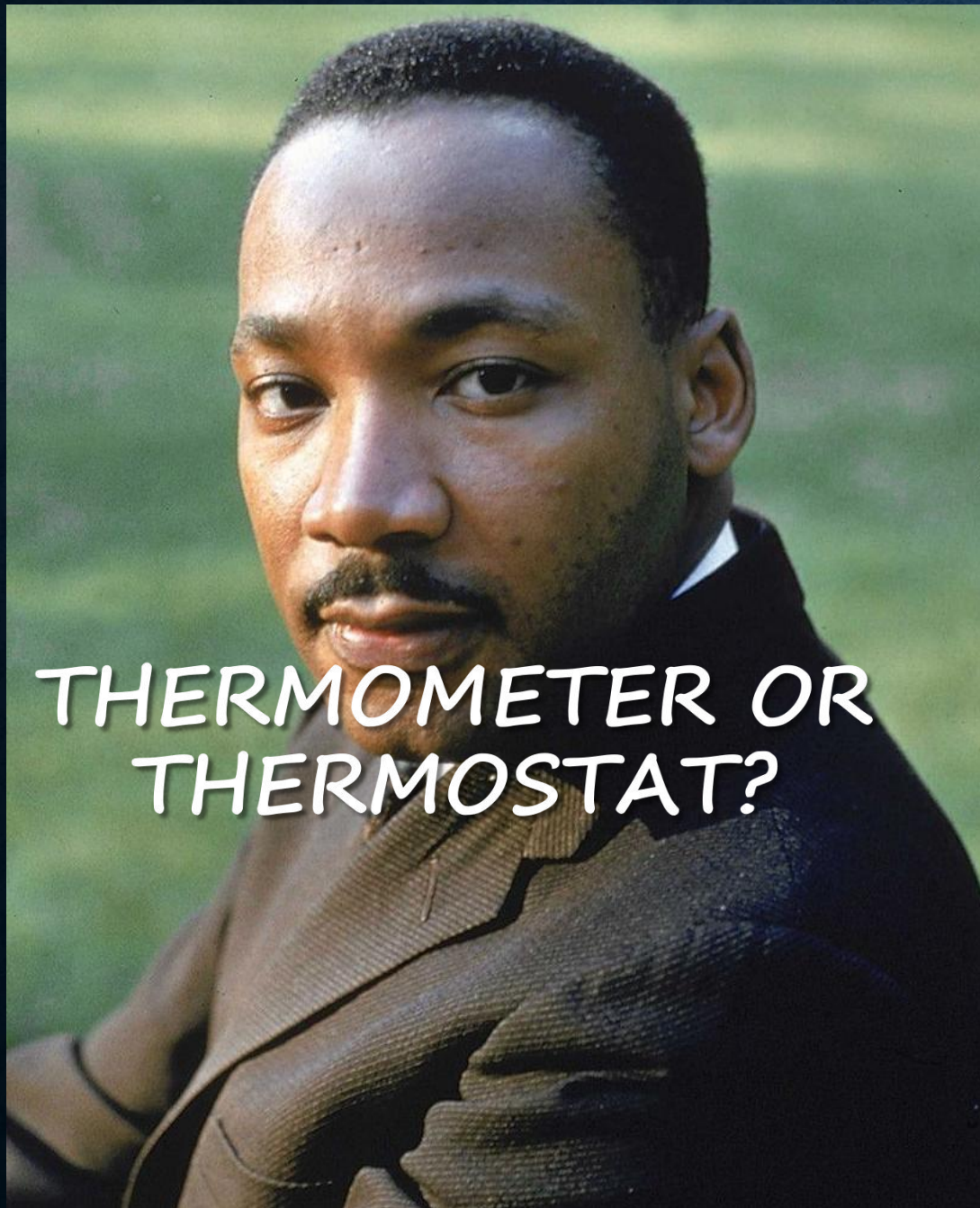


BISHOP HÉLDER
CÂMARA
BISHOP OF THE SLUMS

*'When I give food to
the poor, they call me
a saint. When I ask
why the poor have no
food, they call me a
communist.'*

social and political work for the poor and for
human rights and democracy during the
military regime

Organization to provide loans to poor



**THERMOMETER OR
THERMOSTAT?**

LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM

Whenever the early Christians entered a town, the people in power became disturbed and immediately sought to convict the Christians for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators." But the Christians pressed on, in the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven," called to obey God rather than man. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated." By their effort and example they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contests



SOCIAL ACTION OR EVANGELISM





*Give a hungry man a meal, and you keep him
alive for a day. Share the gospel, and you offer
him eternity.”*

ARTIFICIAL CHOICE

Conversion
of the heart

Change their hearts
will change their
behaviour
Spirit will empower
transformation

Transformation
of society

Social action
demonstrates the
love of God in
concrete terms. The
action manifests the
crucified Christ

EVANGELISM

Distinct

Great commission

Related

Not
contingent

Loving neighbour

SOCIAL ACTION

Distinct



Gospel

Declaration

Demonstration

Declared and Demonstrated the gospel

JESUS DID NOT SEE THE DIFFERENCE

NAZARETH MANIFESTO

ISAIAH 61:1-2



Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

APOSTLES DID NOT SEPARATE THE TWO



Galatians 2:9-10 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.



Cappadocia



THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

PART 2 GOD'S LAW

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WE ARE TO ACT ACCORDING TO A NEW OPERATING PRINCIPLE

James 2:12-13 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The basis of the new principle is mercy

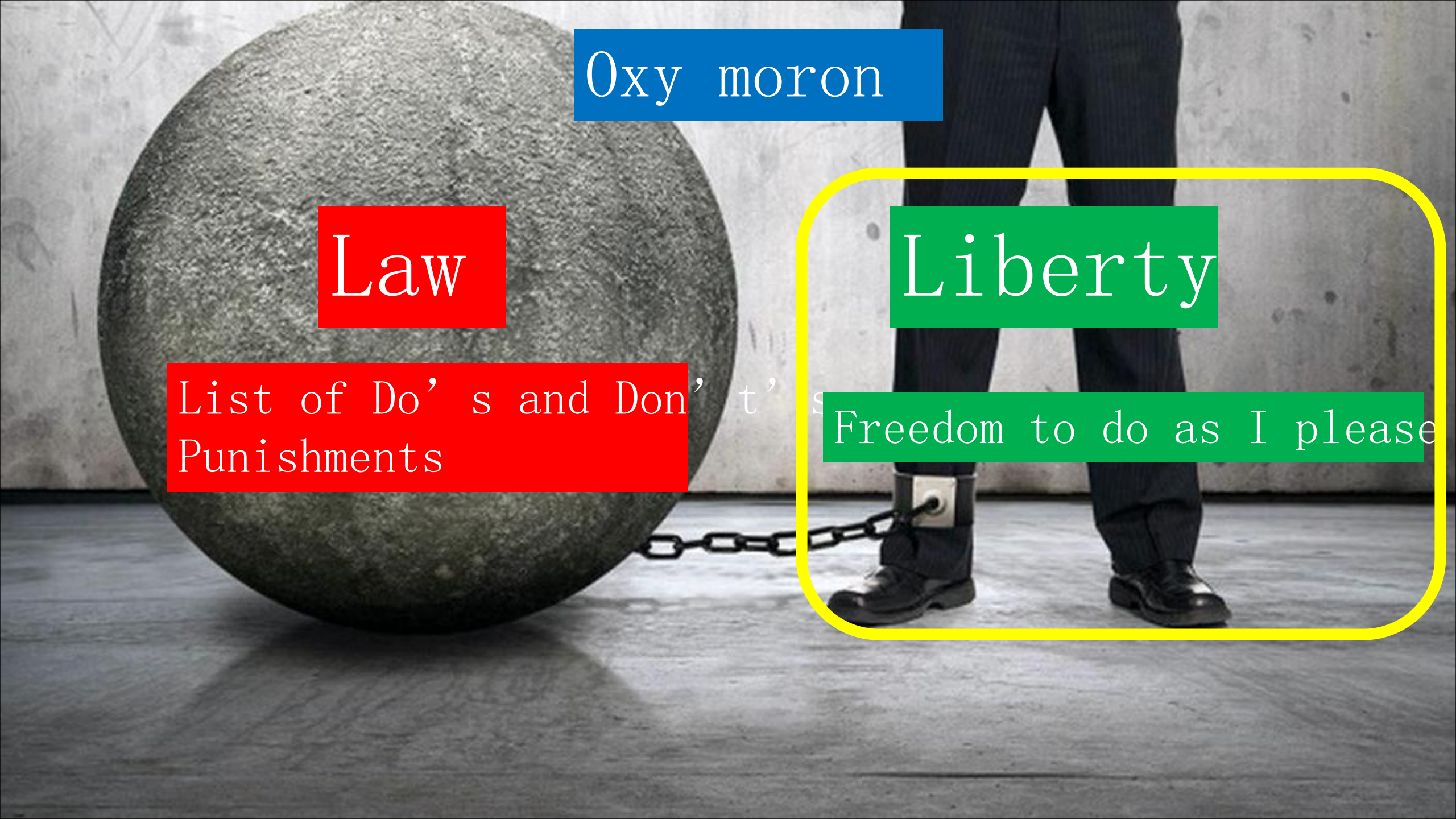
Oxy moron

Law

List of Do's and Don't's
Punishments

Liberty

Freedom to do as I please



A low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty against a clear blue sky. The statue is green and holds a torch in her right hand and a tablet in her left. The text is overlaid on the image.

Human Concept of Freedom
Independence from God

Sexual rights
Reproductive rights
Free Speech



REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

620,327 deaths in in 2020

Adultery

SEXUAL FREEDOM

Pornography

Broken families

Addiction

Human Concept of Freedom

Independence from God but slavery to sin

Rape

Gender dysphoria



Oxy moron

Law

List of Do's and Don'ts
Punishments

Liberty

Freedom to do as I please



LAW PROVIDES FREEDOM TO LIVE ACCORDING TO OUR DESIGN AS HIS IMAGE

Psalms 119: 44 I will keep your law continually,
forever and ever, 45 and I shall walk in a wide
place, for I have sought your precepts. 46 I will
also speak of your testimonies before kings and
shall not be put to shame,
47 for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.



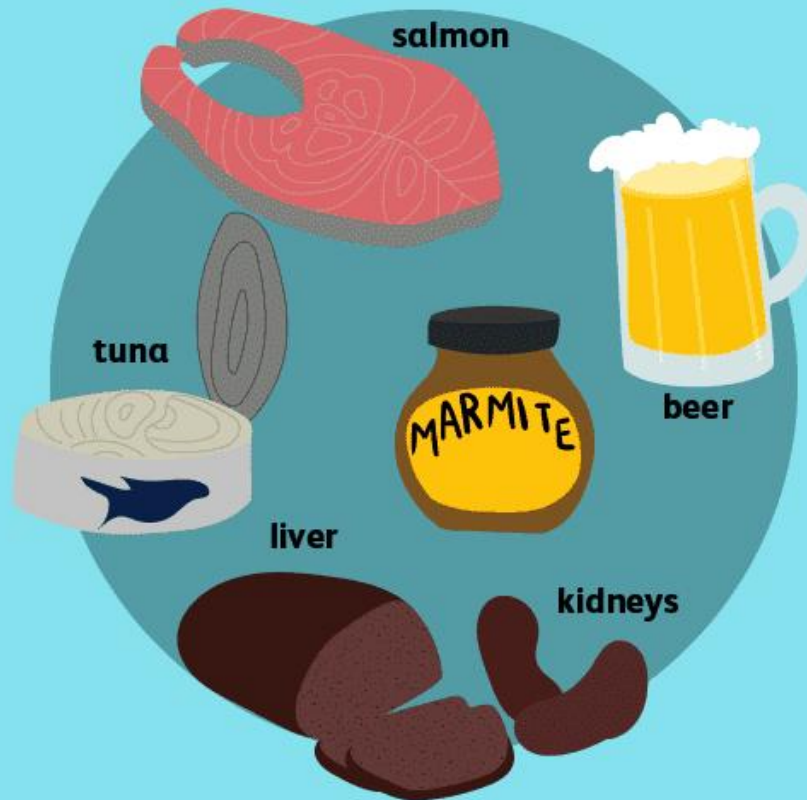
Law provides vital limits to
our journey on the mountain
Law provides freedom

Foods to Eat and Avoid With Gout

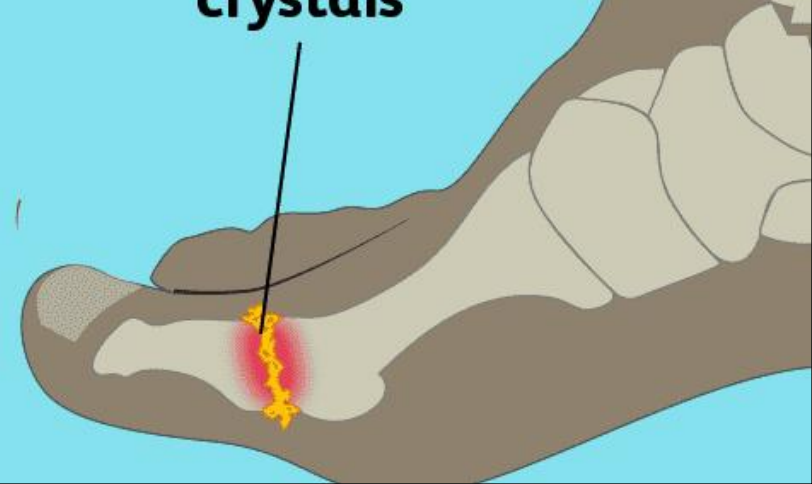
Freedom to
Eat



Avoid



**Uric acid
crystals**



THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND

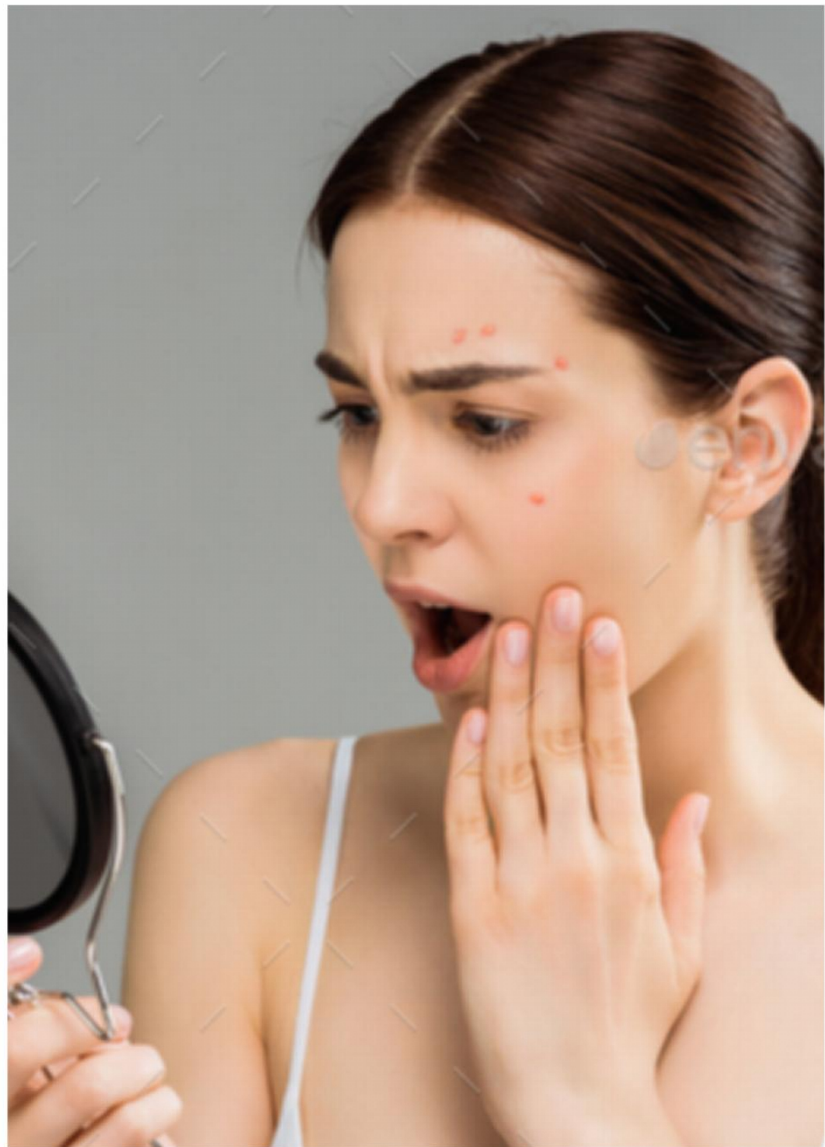
Freedom to
live as God
designed us

Slavery to
Sin in our
flesh

J; Mirror analogy—ineffective looking
doers of the word,
and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For
if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,
he is like a man who looks intently at his natural
face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and
goes away and at once forgets what he has seen.

Law as effective mirror

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law,
the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no
hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be
blessed in his doing.



**GOOD MIRROR
IMPACT**



PROBLEMS WITH ANCIENT MIRRORS

Poor evaluation of self ...Easily forgotten

Purpose of mirrors is to see ourselves



CONTRAST

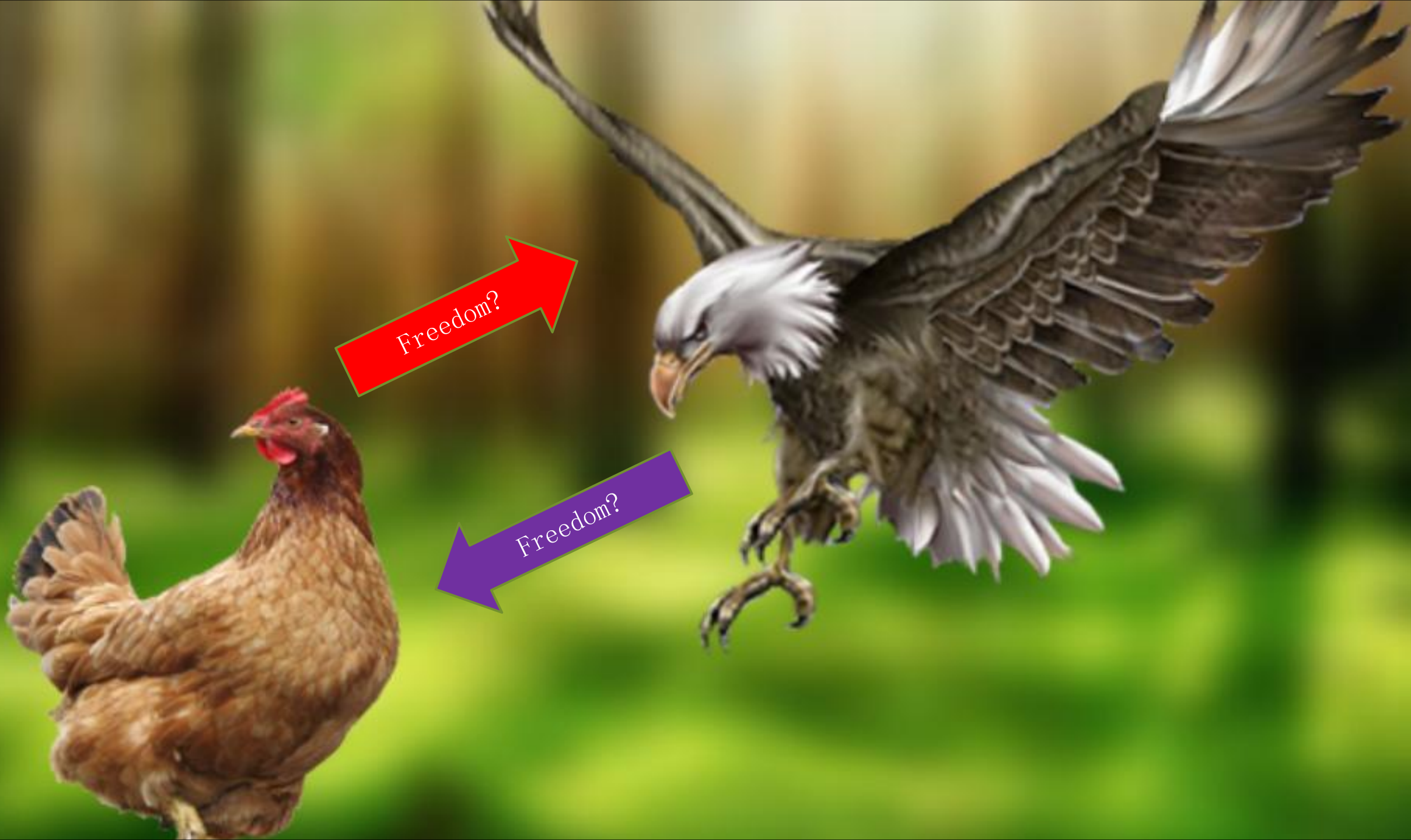
Ancient Mirror

- Hearer
- Looks intently at own face
- Goes away –Forgets
- Deceived

Word of God–Gospel

- Looks into perfect law
- Perseveres
- Acts

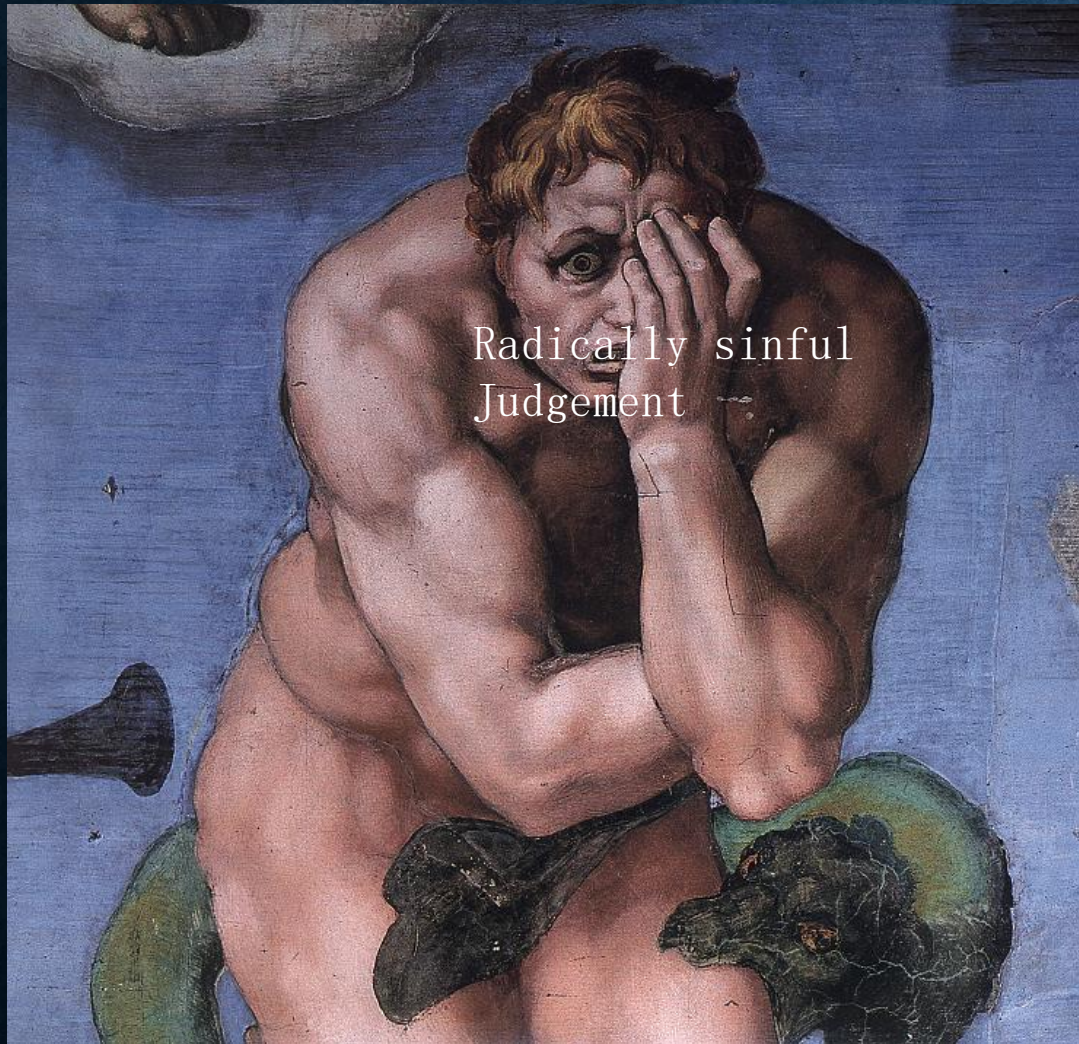




Freedom?

Freedom?

LAW GIVES TRUE PICTURE



Radically sinful
Judgement

Frees us from self reliance and pride
Can't be a Christian by trying harder



Radically exalted
Received mercy

Increase Christ reliance and faith



James 2:12–13 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

As one who has received mercy

WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

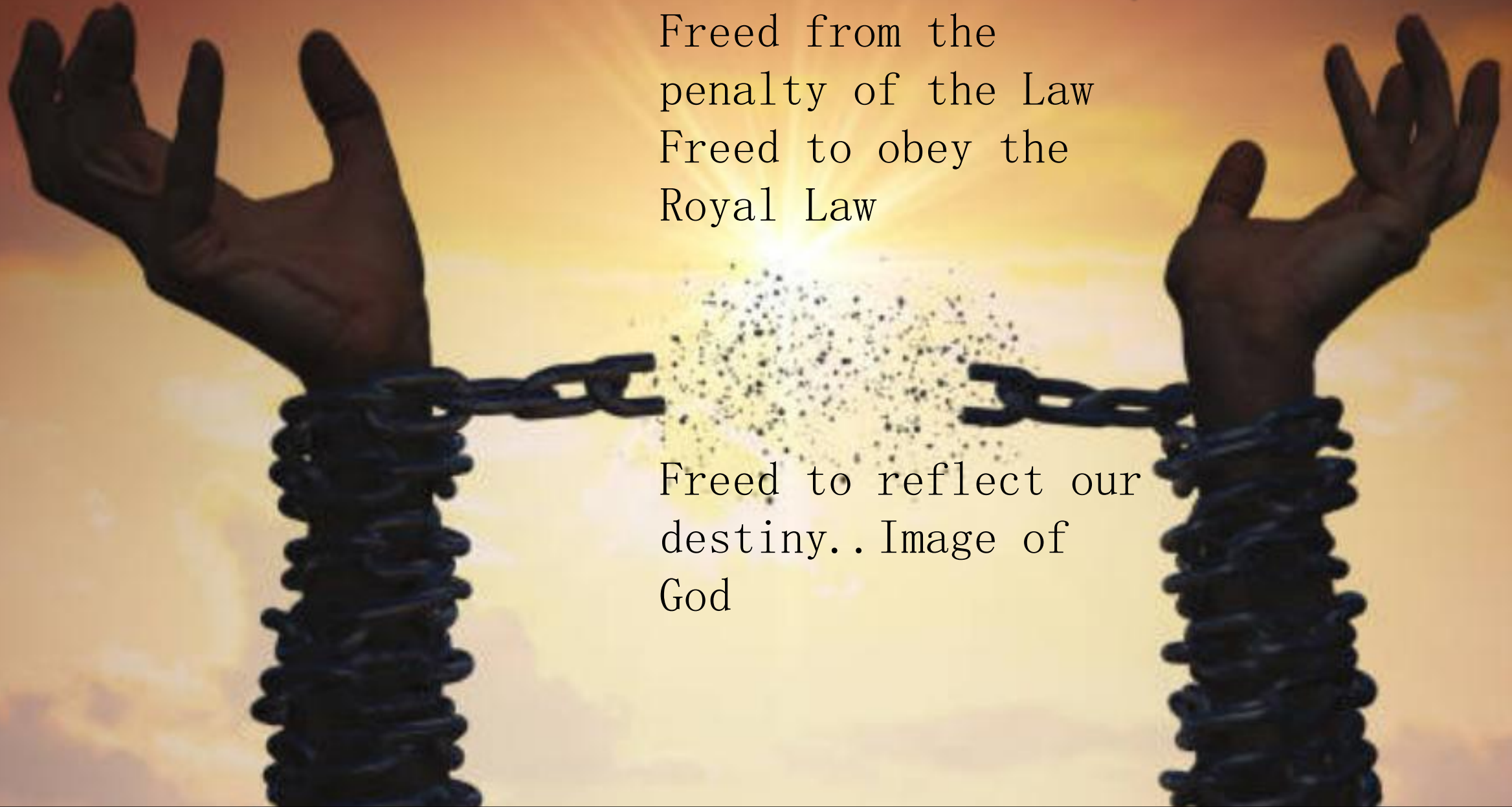
James 2:13 For judgment is
without mercy to one who has
shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs
over judgment.



ENABLES US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR

Freed from the
penalty of the Law
Freed to obey the
Royal Law

Freed to reflect our
destiny.. Image of
God



HOW WE TREAT POOR IS BASED ON HOW WE SEE OURSELVES

Love and mercy because
we have received mercy



Love in order
to gain
salvation or
glory

HOW PAUL APPLIES THIS IN CHURCH FREED TO LOVE

Galatians 5:13–15 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

THE GOSPEL GIVES US THE FREEDOM US TO GENUINE LOVE

Serve one another
We show mercy



Bite and Devour one another
We show no mercy



THE CHRISTIAN AND THE POOR

PART 2 GOD'S LAW

- 1) Partiality against the poor breaks the heart of God's law
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4. OUR CHALLENGE: ACTION MATTERS, WORDS DON'T

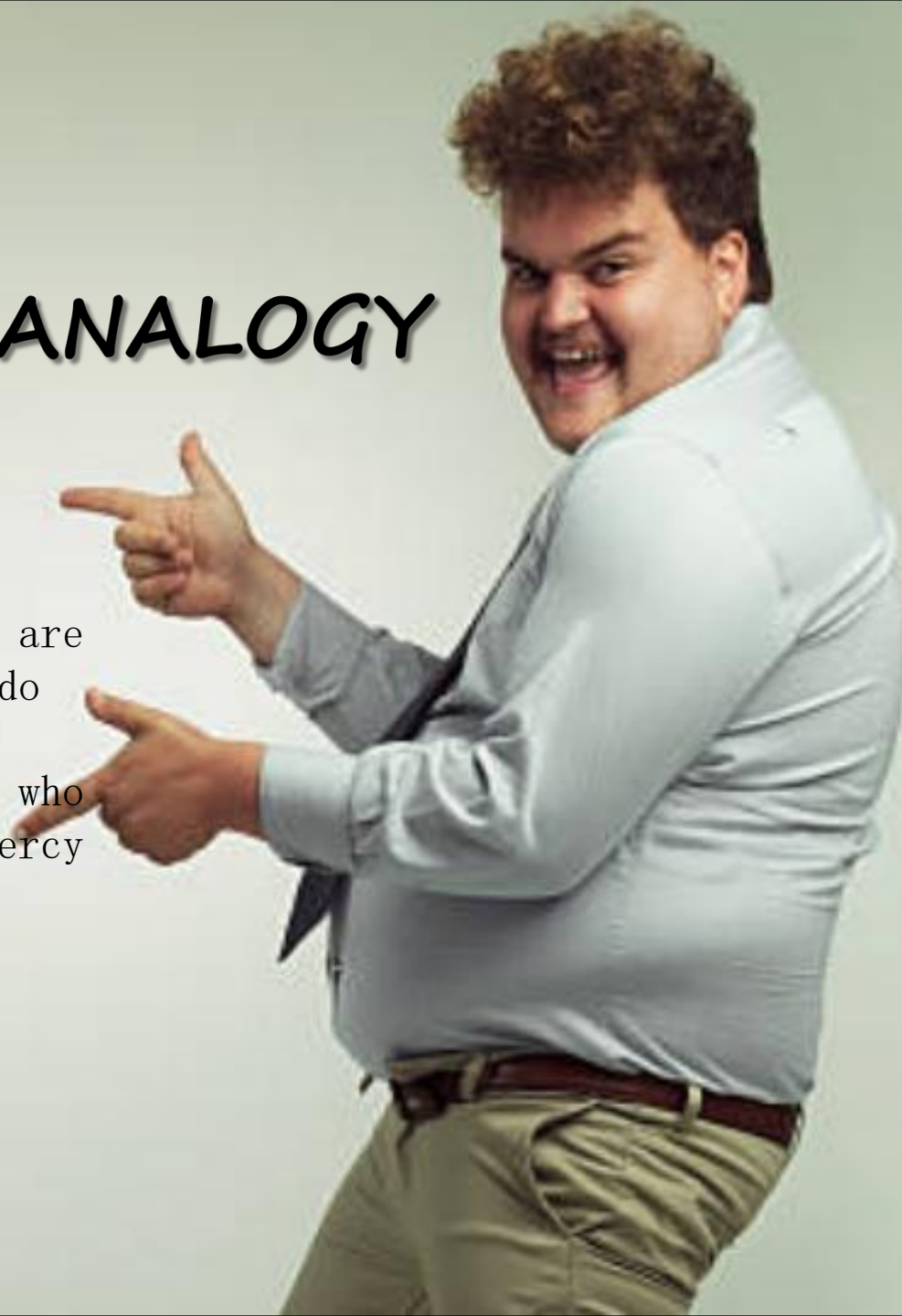
James 2:14-17 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead

MIRROR ANALOGY

Responding

Knowing who you are
enables you to do
or obey

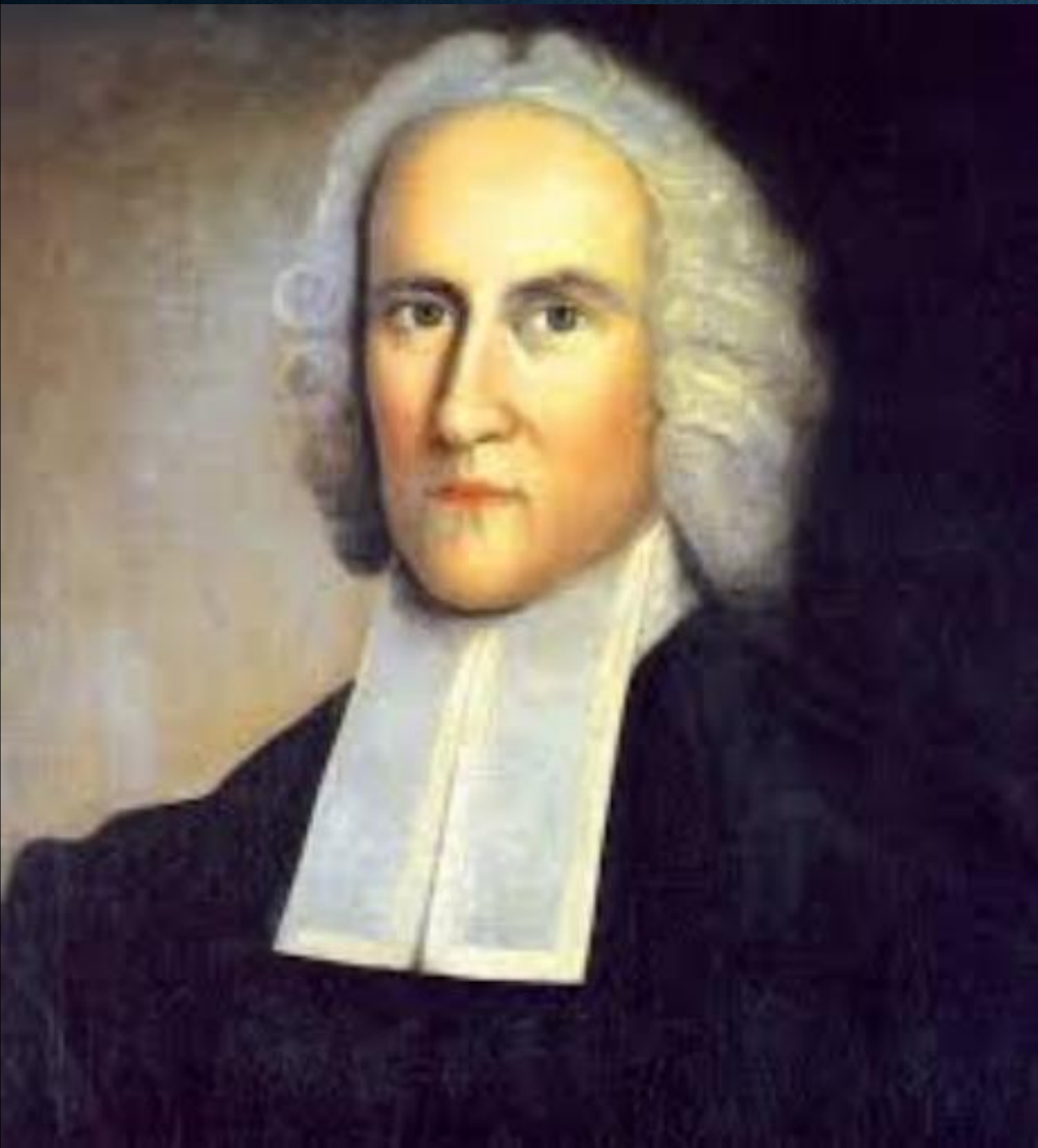
We are a people who
have received mercy



A person wearing a grey hoodie and a black balaclava. The text "DUTY IS NOT OPTIONAL" is overlaid on the face area. The background consists of light green curtains and a window with blinds.

DUTY IS NOT OPTIONAL

SULLY BRITISH VOLUNTEER



JONATHAN EDWARDS

, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”

“It is not a just a small duty, but a great duty — and even heaven and hell lie in the balance with how we respond to the poor”

LEARN---A PROCESS

Isaiah 1:16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil.

17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause

ACTS OF THE EARLY CHURCH



Acts 2:42-45 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

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BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV) Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.