

James 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Analysis

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. James charges, "So speak and so do" as those who will be judged by the law of liberty (nomou eleutherias, νόμου ἐλευθερίας). Speech and action must align with the freedom-giving gospel. Judgment according to the law of liberty means believers are accountable for how they steward grace.

Reformed believers affirm that justification frees us for holy living. The law of liberty liberates us to obey; thus our words and deeds should reflect new-creation ethics.

Historical Context

Diaspora Christians faced scrutiny from both Jews and Gentiles. James reminds them that ultimate judgment comes from God, not earthly courts. Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 5:10 about appearing before Christ's judgment seat parallels this sober accountability.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does future judgment by the law of liberty affect your daily speech?
2. Where do your words and actions need greater alignment?
3. Who can help you live consistently before the coming Judge?

Interlinear Text

οὗτως λαλεῖτε καὶ οὗτως ποιεῖτε ὡς διὰ νόμου
So speak ye and So do as by the law
G3779 G2980 G2532 G3779 G4160 G5613 G1223 G3551

ἐλευθερίας μέλλοντες κρίνεσθαι
of liberty they that shall be judged
G1657 G3195 G2919

Additional Cross-References

James 1:25 (Word): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:8 (Word): If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Colossians 3:17 (Word): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Philippians 4:8 (Parallel theme): Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.