

A close-up, low-angle shot of a hand holding a quill pen over an open book. The book's pages are filled with dense, handwritten text in a dark ink. The lighting is dramatic, with the quill and the hand being the primary focus, while the background is dark and out of focus. The overall mood is one of quiet concentration and historical significance.

Stumbling in Only One Point of Law

James 2:8-13

James 2:8-13

- “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is 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 you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

Stumbling in Only One Point of Law

- “You have broken the law” vs. “You have broken a law”
 - One asserts breaking a law means that all of the law has been broken
 - The other insists that only one law has been broken, and the rest of the law has been kept.
- What has the lawbreaker done?

Stumbling in Only One Point of Law

- He has judged the law he broke as unworthy of his compliance
- To bring one law under his judgment implies his view that any or all of the laws are subject to his judgment
- To judge the law as subject to his approval implies that the lawgiver is subject to his judgment and approval
- In breaking the law, he declares he is above the law, including the Lawgiver

Stumbling in Only One Point of Law

- At the same time, to repent of this sin, he need only repent of the sin he committed and to humbly seek forgiveness for the pride that enabled him to break it in the first place
 - 1John 1:8-10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

It Must Be Remembered

- That the law of Christ, just like the Law of Moses, was given by God, Who developed those laws before the world began.
- The law of God whether through Moses or Christ is an intricately woven, seamless tapestry; pull one thread and many others will come out with it.
- In the law of Christ, we are judged not only for the violation of law, but also by the spirit with which we broke it.

It Must Be Remembered

- Matt. 12:35 - “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things”
- Matt. 15:18-19 - “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”
- Rom. 6:17 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

To Transgress One Law Is To Transgression Of The Whole Law

- This principle was established by God in ancient days
 - Deut. 27:2 - “Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law. And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”
 - Lev. 11:44 - “For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy...”

To Transgress One Law Is To Transgression Of The Whole Law

- There is only one
 - James 2:10 - “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all”
 - James 4:11-12 - “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

To Transgress One Law Is To Transgression Of The Whole Law

- The Lawgiver is one
 - Ex. 20:1-2 - “And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage’”
 - Deut. 6:4-6 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.”
- To violate one law is to question the authority of the One who gave the law

To Transgress One Law Is To Transgression Of The Whole Law

- The Law itself is one
 - To keep the law of love in essence is keeping all of the law
 - Rom. 13:10 - “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”
 - “The law is one seamless garment, which is rent if you but rend a part; or a musical harmony, spoiled if there be one discordant note. (Tirinus.)

To Transgress One Law Is To Transgression Of The Whole Law

- The spirit of obedience is one
 - True reverence for the law is inspired by love to the Lawgiver; and therefore obedience shows no partiality to any of the laws given by Him
 - Psalm 119:127-128, 151, 172 - “Therefore I love Your commandments More than gold, yes, than fine gold! 128 Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way... 151 You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth... 172 My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.”

Lessons

- Partial obedience is an expression of insincerity.
- It is self-deceit to excuse failure to keep one duty by claiming the care of another.
- The smallness of sin is a poor excuse.
- It is not merely the violation of God's law we are to regard, but the spirit behind it as well.

Lessons

- James 2:12 - “So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”
- James 1:25 - “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- John 13:17 - “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”