

Series: "Marks Of Maturity"
"Judgment"
James 4:11-12
Study-9

James 4:11 Do not speak against one another, brethren.
Speaking/Speech is not a new topic in the book of James.

James 1:19, 26

James 3:1-12 about the Tongue.

He then went into wisdom, **James 3:13-18**, that our Tongues should speak that which would bring life.

Then **James 4:1-10**, he spoke of worldliness, how our selfish nature, keeps us from enjoying God's wisdom because of (self-gratification)

James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity) Mark #9 "Judgement"

Thought Of Our Passage: "Judging Others Out Of Spite, Or To Expose Their Sin, Is Against God's Law And Against God Himself."

- 1. Verse 11 Judging Is Not To Be:**
- 2. Verse 11 Judging Is Above The Law:**
- 3. Verse 12 Judging Is Above God:**

1. Verse 11 Judging Is Not To Be:

James 4:11 Do not speak against one another,

Context - James just spoke about "**Worldliness**," concluded with **James 4:10**
Humble yourselves

The root cause of all wars is selfishness. Pleasures that are out of control, **Sins Of The Flesh**. Now James hits home on an area of the **Sins Of The Spirit**.

Gives A Command: Do not speak against

The *Greek present tense "habitual"* of a "*continual speaking against other persons.*"
brethren. Galatians 6:10

speak against - Greek "*to speak against one, to incriminate, to speak evil of, down on, to make a person lower to others*"

Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses for marrying a Cushite woman,
Numbers 12:1,8

The People of Israel spoke against God by complaining about conditions in the wilderness, **Numbers 21:5**

The Psalmist says a wicked person will speak against his brother, slandering him with lies, **Psalm 50:20**

Job's friends spoke against Job, insulting him and crushing him with their words. **Job 19:1-3**

Unbelievers speak against Christians, slandering them as evil doers, **1 Peter 2:12; 3:16** but these are Christians talking each other down. **one another, brethren.**

speak against - translated "backbiter"
It means, "one who speaks against another."

Twice in NT Romans 1:30 slanderers, 2 Corinthians 12:20 slanders, gossip,

This Command is more than just speaking lies about a person.
Literally, it says, "Do not speak down on one another, brothers," or "Do not speak against one another, brethren"

Two Forms Of Judging That Are Sinful:

1. Speaking Forth Of Untruths:

Slander - "is malicious speech that is untrue."

Exodus 20:16

Started with the devil, who is a liar/slanderer:

Context of Our Passage - James 4:7

devil - Greek word diabolos which is translated "slanderer." **John 8:44**

The devil's lie that led to the fall of mankind: **Genesis 3:4**

Satan filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God. Acts 5:3

Lying is called by Paul a practice of "**the old self,**" **Colossians 3:9; Psalm 119:29**

2. Speaking Forth Truth That Contains The Faults And Sins Of Others:

Slander - speech that is going to run down others, even if it is true!

Ephesians 4:29; 1 Peter 4:8

If the brother or sister has sinned, we need to go to them to restore them to fellowship with the Lord and others.

Matthew 18:15-18; Galatians 6:1-2

God said to Israel **Leviticus 19:16**

We are not only forbidden from slandering others, but we are also to turn a deaf ear to it. Proverbs 17:4; 16:28; 20:19

Fault-finding - is to some a spiritual gift.

Slander - can be the speaking down of a person by minimizing their virtues and accomplishments.

Four - Possible Reasons for Slander:

- 1. Slander For Revenge:** offense was intentional or unintentional. **(Matthew 18:15-18)** or give it to God and pray for them. (Can't slander and pray!)
- 2. Gossip And Criticism May Be Rooted In Self-Righteousness:**
- 3. Speaking Down To Others So We Can Elevate Ourselves: Luke 18:11**
- 4. Slandering Others Results From Too Much Talk: Proverbs 10:19**

Judging Is Not To Be Because We Are Brothers And Sisters:

2. Verse 11 Judging Is Above The Law:

James 4:11 speaks against the law,
The royal law of love. **James 2:8**

and judges the law;

How do we judge the law?

When we go against what Scripture clearly tells us is wrong,
we are saying that the law has no value or importance.

James is not saying that Christians are never to make judgments as to a person and what is right and wrong.

**Matthew 7:1 "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. (Critically)
Teaches against judgmental, censorious judgment:
Trying to find things wrong with others.**

Matthew 7:2 Teaches us that the standard that we use will be used on us.

Matthew 7:3-5 Teaches against judging others and not dealing with the sin in our own lives.

The Messenger/Message: Matthew 7:15

I Must Judge Their Message According To The Word.

**Their Character: Matthew 7:16 Does their character line up with Scripture?
Building Up Not Tearing Down: 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 Excommunicate**

1 Corinthians 5:11 Do not associate with any so-called brother.

Greek word for "**reviler**"

"someone who is abusive, a slanderer, or uses insulting language"

1 John 4:1; 2 John 10-11

speaks against the law, and judges the law

Because the Law was a law of love.

Leviticus 19:18; James 2:10

Man's Role Is To Obey God's Commands, Not Stand In Judgement Of His Commands: but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it.

Leviticus 19:15 Judge your neighbor fairly

Leviticus 19:16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people,

Leviticus 19:17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart;

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge

Romans 2:1; 14:12-13

3. Verse 12 Judging Is Above God:

James 4:12 "Who Made You God?

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; God alone is sovereign (Lawgiver/Judge)

"Only God can pass judgment on a person's actions and motives without fault, without hypocrisy, and without spite."

Deuteronomy 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:6; Matthew 10:28

John 5:22 This judgment is reserved for Jesus Christ for all Christians at the Bema seat of Christ. **(Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10)**

We Are Ignorant Of The Full Picture: We often lack the full knowledge

We Are Human And Tainted By Sin: 1 Corinthians 4:5

Application: Acrostic Using The Word **THINK**

T – is it **T**True?

H – is it **H**Helpful?

I – is it **I**Inspiring?

N – is it **N**Necessary?

K – is it **K**Kind?