

James (Part Eight)
“Judge Jesus” - James 4:11-12

Why does James warn us not to speak against each other *in the church*?

1. Speaking against another is really playing the place of judge over that person. (vs. 11-12 inherently)

James 4:12 “But who are you to judge your neighbor?” (i.e., “Who do you think you are?”)

- A. Speaking against someone is judging them at the heart of it. (judging their faith and actions)
- B. There is only One who takes the judgment seat over our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- C. Brief breakdown of APPROPRIATE & INAPPROPRIATE JUDGING for the Christian:
 - i. I cannot judge GOD’S RESPONSE TO SIN. (Having to do with what God will do in a person’s life.)

Matthew 7:1-5 Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye, and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- ii. I cannot judge a brother’s faith ON MINOR ISSUES. (Romans 14:1-13, 21-22) (Having to do with faith on small issues)
- iii. I can judge a brother’s faith ON MAJOR ISSUES. (1 Corinthians 5:9-6:3) (Having to do with right & wrong and living in sin)

2. Speaking against another is really playing the place of judge over the Bible [the Law]. (vs. 4:11b)

James 4:11b When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

- A. Because the Law commands not to speak against one another. (Leviticus 19:16-18)
 - i. Notice: the cure for slander among a people group is LOVE.
 - ii. God was concerned for unity and love amongst the camp of Israel & amongst the church as well.
- B. A huge concern for James too:

James 2:8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,” you are doing well.

- i. Other concerns for James: Arrogant boasting (3:5), Jealousy (3:14-16), Self-Centered Desires (4:1-3), Presumptuous Teaching (3:1), Negative Talk, etc.
- ii. The Core Issue for James is PRIDE. (Quarrel Calming)

James 4:6 God is opposed to the proud but give grace to the humble.

- C. A huge a concern for Paul and his churches too:

Galatians 5:14-15 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

- i. Speaking against one another and judging each other will devour this church. So...

James 1:19-22 ...be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

- ii. Be a doer of the Word!

3. Speaking against another is really playing the place of judge over Jesus. (vs. 4:12)

James 4:12 *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you who are you to judge your neighbor?*

A. There is only One Judge - Jesus.

James 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

B. Jesus is the Executive and Administrator of the Law (not me).

C. There is only One Author of the Law, One Judge over the Law, and One Savior from the Law. - *"He who is able to save and destroy."*

i. I can't do either.

Psalm 49:7-9 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him - the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough - that he should live on forever and not see decay.

ii. If you don't know Jesus I encourage you to come to Him - a merciful & gracious Judge, unlike us humans.

James 2:12-13 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty [and it's Executive & Administrator]. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

iii. We will all stand before His judgment seat one day. (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10)

Close:

My Job is to Love - "This is my commandment, that you love one another." & The Royal Law is Scripture"

Why is this so hard?

Love involves: humility, service, overlooking offenses, majoring on the majors, not the minors, speaking the truth...in love, forgiving, knowing my place, watching my tongue, etc.