

Reflection Questions: Why do I enjoy judging my neighbors? How do I use my words to judge or slander others? How can I work to change this? What hidden attitudes might lead to my judgmental thoughts or words? Who can I ask to see if I have a judgmental, critical tongue?

How can I pray for others and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

Usurping God's judging authority by judging a person is really a blaspheming of God.

Peter Davids

If one is to love one's neighbors (Lev. 19:18), then one cannot simultaneously slander them (Lev. 19:16).

Craig L. Blomberg

Humbling ourselves and getting right with God must result in our getting right with other people. When we are right with other people, it will show in the way we talk about them. So we must not speak evil of one another and not judge our brother.

David Guzik

Humility is both a grace, and a vessel to receive grace... God singles out the humble soul to fill him to the brim with grace while the proud are sent empty away.

Thomas Brooks

If fellow believers are viewed as those chosen by God before the foundation of the world, for whom Christ died, who are loved and honored by God, and with whom we will spend eternity in heaven, we will seek to honor, love, and protect them. The first step in avoiding the sin of slander is not keeping one's lips sealed, but keeping one's thoughts about others right.

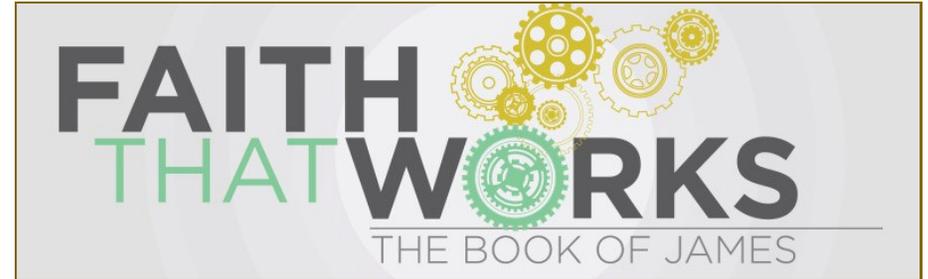
John MacArthur

A disposition to judge and condemn shows a conceited and arrogant disposition. It has the appearance of a person's setting himself up above others, as though he were fit to be the lord and judge of his fellow-servants, and he supposed they were to stand or fall according to his sentence.

Jonathan Edwards

Christians are to speak "the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15); they are not to speak evil in a spirit of rivalry and criticism.

Warren Wiersbe



#20 Who Are You to Judge? (4:11-12)

Sermon Notes

July 21, 2019

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How does *James 4:11-12* fit into the broader context of James' teaching about humility and pride?

3. What does it mean to *speak against* another believer (*James 4:11*)?

4. Can speaking the truth about someone ever constitute *speaking against* them? Explain.

5. Read *John 7:24* and *1 Corinthians 5:9-13*. What are we commanded to do in these passages?

Since Scripture does not contradict itself, how do we explain Jesus and Paul commanding us to judge while James commands us not to?

6. Read *Matthew 7:1-5*. What is Jesus telling us in these verses?

Now read *Matthew 7:6*. What is Jesus telling us here? Explain.

7. Where is the line between being biblically discerning and speaking against others? What Scriptures back your answer?

8. In what ways will true humility and submission to God cut into our tendencies to be judgmental?

9. How will genuine repentance for our pride lead us to be merciful, patient, and gracious toward our neighbor?

10. If you confront someone in sin and they say, "You're being judgmental!" how would you respond?

11. How do we judge the Law when we *speak against one another* (*James 4:11-12*)?

12. Why is it important to know that God is the only *Lawgiver and Judge* (*James 4:12*)?

13. Why does James remind us that God is *the One who is able to save and to destroy* (*James 4:12*)?

14. What do these verses teach about our speech?
Leviticus 19:16 — *Proverbs 20:19* —

Psalms 15:2-3 — *2 Corinthians 12:20* —

Psalms 50:19-20 — *Ephesians 4:29-32* —

Psalms 101:5 — *Colossians 3:8* —

Psalms 140:11 — *1 Peter 2:1* —