



JAMES

The Rumor
Mill

4:11-12

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

JAMES 4:11-12

Series on James

Jesus Little Brother

Witness Jesus Teaching & Life

Witness to Jesus Death & Resurrection

Leader of Early Church

Writing to 12 Tribes Dispersed

Topic – What causes Quarrels & Fights?

Question today – Who Are You to Judge?



JAMES 4:11-12

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against 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 only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"



JAMES 4:11-12

1. Guard the Family Talk

- 'brothers', family members
- 'Do not speak evil against one another'

a) Emphasis on Our Speech

- James 3 – the tongue & it's power
- Proverbs 21:23 "Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble."
- Psalm 39:1 "I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle"



JAMES 4:11-12

- Matthew 12:36-37 "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

b) Do Not Speak Evil

- word here broader than simple accusation
- critical spirit, harmful motive & approach
- unloving, no way to behave as a family



JAMES 4:11-12

- 1 Cor. 13:1 -3“ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”



JAMES 4:11-12

- 1 John 4:20-21 "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother"
- clear evidence in Scripture – the love in our words and actions reflect God. The lack of that reflects sin.



JAMES 4:11-12

2. Be Careful About Making Judgments

a) Need Clarity

- told to discern rightly
- John 7:24 "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."
- discover truth, gently restore, call to obedience and repentance, confront sin
- guard the flock, evaluate the fruit, expose false teaching, hold to account
- difference between careful evaluation and speaking judgments



JAMES 4:11-12

b) Command – Do Not Judge

- verb – adopt critical spirit, conclusions on and heart, claiming to know what we could not.

- word found in Romans 14:10-13 “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.



JAMES 4:11-12

- ¹³Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother

- warning of Jesus Matthew 7:1-5 "Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your



JAMES 4:11-12

brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?
5 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."

c) Enforcement vs. Participation

- when we are keepers of rules we:
 - assume a role not ours
 - place ourselves above not under



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3. God's Place Alone

a) There is only One – God Alone

- adjust attitude

b) He Has the Authority

- able to save

- able to destroy

c) Who Are You to Judge

- you are guilty as well

- 'he who is without sin cast first stone'



JAMES 4:11-12

So What

1. Family Health & Witness Important
 - what causes quarrels & fights?
2. Guard the Family Talk
 - tongue is powerful
 - what you say matters
 - words wound & destroy
3. Check What's Going on Inside
 - judgment is a big deal
 - discernment vs. critical spirit



JAMES 4:11-12

4. Let God be God

- Creator of all things
- Authority to Judge
 - able to save
 - able to destroy
- Submit & Humble Self

