

July 22, 2007

JAMES 4:11-12

When you have problems in your relationships with **others**, it is a symptom of a problem in your relationship with **God**.

That problem is pride.

Judge – “*krino*” – to **condemn**; not evaluation but condemnation

We “speak against our brother” when we speak words that are produced by **pride**, not **humility**.

It is not wrong for us to **confront** someone in their sin.

Galatians 6:1;

1 Timothy 5:19-21;

1 Corinthians 5:12;

Matthew 7:1-5

The judgment James is talking about is not about redemption & grace but selfish speech to make you look **good** and others look **bad**.

Lying about them

- We say things we don't know to be **true** about others because we enjoy looking like we know something important.
- We exaggerate a person's **faults**.
- We run & tell others about how someone **hurt** us.

Speaking the truth about them

- behind their backs to put them **down**
- by being **hypercritical**
- by passing of gossip as **prayer requests**

“the law” – *James 2:8; Matthew 22:37-40*

- Love God, love **each other**

When we “speak against others” we are judging God's law as **unworthy** of our attention.

When we put ourselves above God's law, we try to boot God off the **throne** & take His place.

Instead of putting ourselves **above** God, we've got to **humble** ourselves before God. (v.7-10)

1) Give up your gavel.

- Be on your guard against anything that causes you to feel like a **superior** person.

2) Wonder at the why.

- **Why** am I saying this?
- Is what I'm saying **true**?
- Am I just **assuming**?
- Would I say the **same** words in the **same** way if the person I'm talking about was here?

3) Live in the light of God's judgment. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

- Live **constantly** reminding yourself of the judgment seat of Christ & walk in the knowledge of the holiness He has given you.