

TITLE: James (Lesson 22)

TEXT: James 4:11-12

INTRO: Today's lesson picks up where we left off in our last lesson. In our last lesson James has instructed believers to *submit* to God, *draw near* to God, and finally to *humble* ourselves before God. Now friend when we do that it will affect both how we treat each other and how we approach life.

I. Why all the confusion?

NOTE: There is a lot of confusion about what the Bible teaches about judging others.

A. What did Jesus teach?

NOTE: Matt. 7:1-5 "Because we live in a culture that claims everyone has a right to do what he or she wants to do, this verse gets quoted whenever the church makes a pronouncement against some form of sinful behavior." *R.C. Sproul*

1. Regarding the relationship between believers.
2. The context refers to a judgment of condemnation.

NOTE: **Judge:** κρίνω *Krino* (kree'-no) It refers to pronouncing an opinion or judgment.

3. Exercise self-judgment.

NOTE: Jesus uses hyperbole. Beware of a critical spirit towards others.

4. Jesus advocates judgment of mercy and discernment.

NOTE: John 8:3-11

B. Both Jesus and James are teaching the same thing.

NOTE: James uses the same Greek word for *judgeth*.

II. (vs. 11) Stop condemning other people.

A. It starts with speaking evil.

NOTE: It means to speak against someone. Slander or even the truth to hurt is evil.

B. We do not have the authority to issue the final verdict!

NOTE: Remember Jesus and James are referring to a judgment of condemnation. The Bible does teach that believers are to exercise the judgment of discernment. See Matt. 7:15-20; 2 Cor. 6:14; James 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1

C. When condemning others we speak "evil of the law, and judgeth the law."

NOTE: We find the law in Christ and His Word (Bible). See James 1:25; 2:8-10; 12. Job's friends were guilty of condemning Job. God held them accountable. Job 42:7-8

D. When condemning others we set ourselves up as the judge.

NOTE: See James 4:7-10. Some think they are outside or above the law.

III. (vs. 12) "There is one lawgiver" and it isn't you or me.

NOTE: "The fact remains, however, that slander is a sin against the person who is accused and against God who forbids this sin by divine law." *Simon Kistemaker*

A. "who is able to save and to destroy"

1. God has already declared judgment but offers salvation.

NOTE: John 3:16-18; 14:6

B. "who art thou that judgest another?"

NOTE: Only God sees the heart and knows all the facts!