

Do Not Speak Evil against Another

James 4:11-12

- I. Prohibition: Do Not Speak Evil against One Another. – v. 11a
- A. Echoes the second greatest commandment. *Lev 19:16; cf. Jam 2:8*
- B. Echoes the words of Christ.
1. Judge not. *Matt 7:1-5; cf. 1 Cor 4:2-5*
 2. Give account for every careless word. *Matt 12:34-37; cf. Jam 1:26*
- II. Implication: You Are Speaking Evil against the Law. – v. 11b
- A. If you condemn your brother, you condemn the law.
1. Observation:
- a. Notice the introduction of “_____.”
 - b. Notice the shift from “_____” to “_____.”
 - c. Notice the shift from “_____” to “_____.”
2. Explanation:
- a. If James forbids all judgment, he condemns _____. *James 4:4*
 - b. If James forbids all judgment, he contradicts the _____. *John 7:24*
- If we _____ a brother (when the law does not), then we condemn the law as inadequate to deal _____ with that brother.*
- c. James forbids all judgment that does not come from the law.
 - i. Judgment based on _____. *Gen 39:14-20; Duet 19:16-19*
 - ii. Judgment based on _____. *Num 21:5; John 7:24*
 - iii. Judgment based on _____. *Num 12:1-9; Job 19:3*
- B. If you judge the law, you are clearly not a doer of the law. *Jam 1:22*
- III. Condemnation: You Are Usurping God. – v. 12
- A. There is one, and only one, lawgiver and judge. *Isa 33:22*
1. That one is able to _____ condemnation. *Heb 7:23-25*
 2. That one is able to _____ condemnation. *Matt 10:28*
- B. Who then do you think you are, judging your neighbor?
1. If you judge your neighbor, you are judging the law.
 2. If you judge the law, you are _____ God.
 3. So when you judge your neighbor, you are _____ God.

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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?