

James

(11) Slander and Arrogance

James 4:11-12

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you — who are you to judge your neighbor? NIV

Brothers, do not slander one another!...4:11-12

Shifting from unsaved Jew, 4:7-10, who does James address now? 4:11a Why not the unsaved?

Specifically to the brothers, fellow believers. This is a ‘family’ matter (slander his brother)

What does slander mean? 4:11; Prov.10:18, 11:9, 16:28, 18:8

It means to defame, speak evil of, question a person’s integrity. It’s foolish / destructive.

What does Scripture say? Lev.19:16; Ps.15:1-3; Rom.1:28-30; Mt.15:19-20; Eph.4:31; Col.3:8

For believers especially, get rid of it. Slander comes from the heart. It condemns us.

In addition to slander, what does James warn against? 4:11b; see IPet.2:12, 3:16 (same word)

Judging your brother. =Krino, to judge with lying with malicious intent to condemn.

How is this kind of judging (malicious condemning) referenced? Mt.7:1-5

God will judge you by the same measure you use to judge others! Do you want that?

What aspect of judging does this NOT prohibit? Mt.18:15-17; Titus 3:10

Truthful exposing of sin w/righteous intent. But note the process! Personally first, then...

By slandering and judging, what does James declare we’re really doing? 4:11b

We speak against the Law, not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it! This is not good.

What is his closing point on this? 4:12

There’s One Lawgiver and Judge, and you’re not Him! Who do you think you are!

Now, about that arrogance...4:13-17

Who is the subject of James’ next topic? 4:13

One who seems to be in total control of their life. Making plans a year in advance!

And what truth had eluded this arrogant ‘planner’? 4:14; Prov.27:1; see Lu.12:16-21

Plan next year? Don’t know tomorrow! Your life may pass away. It’s only a vapor.

Instead of the arrogance, what does James admonish the believer to do? 4:15; Prov.3:5-6

Acknowledge in everything that our lives are in His will. Living and doing and...

Instead of this humble attitude, what did James see? 4:16

Arrogance. Boasting and bragging. All such boasting is evil. Declared independence.

And his final point? 4:17; 1:22-25

Knowing what to do and not doing it is sin. Hearer of the Word and not a doer.

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