

SESSION 17
JAMES 4.11-12

In the previous sessions in this section James has been leading us in exploring the application of True Wisdom to our personal lives and to our corporate life experience in the Body of Christ. We have considered the nature of True Wisdom versus false, worldly wisdom and then the pitfalls of friendship with the world that excludes God our Creator Who is passionate over our souls that He sovereignly has breathed into existence. In this session James continues to hold the nature of the untamed tongue (3.8) and ungodly passion (4.1) in full view as he addresses the next problem that can befall us.

V 11 What is the issue upon which James is focusing?

What Law is being violated? Lev 19.18 → Js 2.8

With respect to the Law itself what position do we take when we slander another brother or sister?

What spiritually happens to us in our judging others?

Where do we end up?

V 12 What is the overall, sovereign, majestic truth that must be held in all this discussion? Deut 6.4 Eph 4.4-6

What must our attitude be when we are snared by the sin of speaking evil against another?

To what truth must we cling when we are tempted to judge and speak evil of another?

Bullets From Other Scriptures

Mtt 7.1-5 What is the main point of these words of Jesus?

Rom 2.1-5 What does Paul bring into view in this segment?

Rom 14.1-4 What is the issue Paul is addressing here?

What do you think is the difference between judging and spiritually discerning?

It is important to remember the role of spiritual discernment in the Christian life as it brings the matter under consideration to the Throne of God and releases it to Him in a spirit of humble trust and intercession. In so doing, we are kept from a multitude of sins that occur when we usurp God's authority, a dangerous position that puts us upon the path of Satanic deception. Satan's desire is always that we would be enslaved to a blasphemous view of ourselves that wreaks of arrogance. Strife and division invariably result from believers taking up such positions of darkness.

How does James finish the exhortation in these verses?