

James 4:11-12

Who Are You to Judge?

Welcome back and here we go! This is our second to last study in James. Next week we will be talking about prayer! What a fitting way to end a long series. We started James at the beginning of November.

James 4:11-12

1) Why is judging wrong?

Judging typically involves making harsh or unfair assessments of others without considering their perspective or circumstances!

Today we will talk about two types of judging:

- Mental Judging
- Open (verbal) judging

Obviously, the first leads to the second, but as we see in the scriptures, it clearly addresses “speaking evil” of another!

You might say being judgmental openly is a form of “sins of the tongue”, which originates in a negative mental attitude. If you come to these classes or sit under my teaching, you know that all of these topics come up regularly!

Matthew 7:1-5

2) Why do people judge?

Jesus clearly teaches in many places about the wrongness of judging. In fact, He teaches that we will fall under the same judgment with what we use, which simply means the standard we use, God will also use for us. That is why we must always have **grace and mercy!**

Back in James: He teaches that by judging others, we are in fact judging the Bible. By speaking against others, we speak against the law. We become the lawgiver. Hence, we put ourselves in the place of God.

Did you know that medical professionals say that if you are ‘judgy’ or judgmental, you will be less healthy?

The more you judge others, the more you judge yourself. They say a judgmental attitude can foster a negative and toxic environment and can lead to conflict, negative social encounters and a sense of isolation.

“After all, you are much better than them!”

Yet, in **I Corinthians 2:10-16**, we are taught we must judge all things.....

3) What is the difference between worldly judging and biblical judging?

There is a difference you know. Moses was the first Judge of Israel. Then Joshua, then the Judges, ending with Samuel.

We have judges today, some good, some bad. We have the Supreme Court. So, apparently, judging must exist for a healthy society.

Jesus talked about fair weights or measures as well --- in *Luke 6:38*.

Romans 2:1-11

4) Is there grace in non-biblical judging?

By constantly seeing the bad in others we actually train our minds to find the bad. This also leads to increased stress... all you see is bad!

Grace allows others to make mistakes. It allows for learning and for growing.

5) How do you know if people judge too much, and are you one of these people?

So again, James ties judging to *sins of the tongue*, which are tied to *mental attitude sins*.

Slander and judgment go hand in hand. Where you find one, you will find the other!

When we denigrate or judge others, we put ourselves in a place of superiority! The final truth is judging elevates us above others. So, I hope in the days to come, you will ask yourself:

“Am I better than them?”

In some cases, you may feel like the answer is ***“yes”***.

When we assume the place of Judge, we put ourselves in the place of God.

6) How can a person stop being judgmental?

1st Step - Recognize it.

2nd Step - Admit it.

3rd Step - Actively catch and correct yourself.

James ends these two scriptures, **4:11-12**, with a question:

“Who are you to judge another?”

So, I will ask the same.

Let's pray.

See you Friday.