

---

## SERMON NOTES July 26, 2020

---

Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### James 4:11-12 Taking God's Place Pastor Mike

- I. The command against \_\_\_\_\_ against or \_\_\_\_\_ others
  - a. What the prohibition against judging \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. God is denouncing more than speaking \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Judging is speaking truth to \_\_\_\_\_, not to \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Judging and hurtful speech are rooted in \_\_\_\_\_
- III. The arrogance of assuming \_\_\_\_\_ God has \_\_\_\_\_ for himself
  - a. God is the one and only \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. God is the one and only \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. Speaking to each other as \_\_\_\_\_, not as \_\_\_\_\_
- Satan is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the brothers, while Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
- Closing question; \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. James 4:11-12 and Matthew 7:1 have become favorite verses of many non-Christians who otherwise have little interest in the Bible. If someone makes a moral statement about an action or lifestyle, they quote these verses saying that the Bible teaches that it is wrong to judge.
  - a. Is this the right application of these verses? Is God teaching that a Christ follower shouldn't make any absolute moral statements about the rightness or wrongness of actions? Explain why you think this is or is not what the Bible is teaching.
  - b. As Christ-followers, are we being judgmental if we say that any actions and/or lifestyles are sinful? Explain your answer.
  - c. Is it possible to state biblical truth in a judgmental way? What is the difference between stating the truth and being judgmental?
2. Most people would agree that harmful and judgmental speech that is untrue (what we refer to as slander) is wrong and sinful. However, in your experience how do most Christians feel about sharing negative or harmful facts that are true (or that they believe to be true)?
  - a. Why do we such a moral difference between true and untrue harmful speech?
  - b. How common is this in the church?
  - c. What impact have you seen this negative and critical speech have on the unity and effectiveness of the church?
3. James teaches that when we speak negatively of others, even when our criticism is true, we have taken God's role of pronouncing judgment (or punishment) upon the other person?
  - a. What is your initial response to this prohibition against all harmful speech, even if what we are saying is true?
  - b. Do you believe that all harmful speech (speaking evil against one another) is always wrong and being judgmental? Is it ever possible to speak harmful speech in a way that does not also involve passing judgment?
4. Can you think of any situation where it might be right to speak negative or critical words to another person?
  - a. Look up Matthew 18:15-17; Matthew 5:23-24; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20 and Proverbs 27:5-6. What do these passages say about this question?
  - b. What guidelines should define what and when we should speak, and the heart with which we should speak (see Matthew 7:1-5)
5. Can you think of any situation where it might be right to speak negative or critical words about another person? If so, what scripture do you feel teaches this?
6. Speech always involves at least two parties; the speaker and the listener. How guilty are we before God if we willingly listen to another person's harmful speech? What actions should we take when someone starts to share harmful speech with us?
7. James 4:12 teaches that God has reserved the roles of lawgiver and judge for himself, and it is wrong for us to try to take either of these roles upon ourselves.
  - a. What is God's role as lawgiver? How do we try to wrongly take this role ourselves?
  - b. What is God's role as judge? How do we wrongly try to take this role ourselves?