

Not ABOVE the LAW ~ James 4:11-12

→Scripture Reading James 1:22, 2:8, 3:9-10, 4:11-12

INTRODUCTION

[4:6] ...God OPPOSES the proud but gives GRACE to the HUMBLE. (NIV)

Slander and CRITICISM ~ James 4:11

[11] 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?

James 2:8 (NIV) If you really keep the ROYAL LAW found in scripture Love Your neighbor as yourself, you are doing right.

IMPLICATION

→It is NOT ok to be Critical or Judgmental if we do it PERSONALLY

[11] Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. (NLT)

→Being Judgmental and Critical is NOT ok Even IF what you say is TRUE

What the Scriptures forbid: is JUDGMENTALISM, a CRITICAL and CONDEMNING spirit that judges everyone and everything, seeking to run others down. PTW

Before Saying Anything ask...

- Is it TRUE?
- Is there any OTHER WAY of seeing this?
- Is it possible I may have MISUNDERSTOOD?
- Is this about my personal PREFERENCES?
- WHY am I saying this?
- Will this HELP them?

APPLICATION

Matthew 7:15 (NIV) Do NOT judge, or you too will be judged.

Matthew 18:15 (NAS) If your brother sins, go and show him his fault IN PRIVATE; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Mark 12:29-31, 33 Jesus replied, The most important commandment is this: Hear, O Israel. The Lord our God is the ONE and only Lord. [30] And you must love the Lord your God with **all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength**. [31] The second is equally important: **Love your neighbor as yourself**. No other commandment is greater than these...

[33] ...This is more important than to offer **all of the burnt offerings** and sacrifices required in the law. (NLT)

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV) Brothers, if someone is caught IN a sin, you who are spiritual should RESTORE him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. [2] Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

There is Only ONE Law GIVER and JUDGE ~ James 4:12

[11] 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?

James takes away any RIGHTS we might claim for **criticizing** our neighbors. Behind the critical spirit is an attitude that **usurps God's authority** and is **full of PRIDE**. There should be NO critical, harsh, faultfinding in the body of Christ. LAB

IMPLICATION

→ **There is only ONE Law Giver and Judge and He does NOT Need our HELP**

[12] **God ALONE, who gave the law, IS the Judge**. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what RIGHT do you have to judge your neighbor? (NLT)

Isaiah 45:5-7 (NIV) I am the LORD, and there is NO OTHER; **apart from ME there is no God**.

I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, [6] so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know **there is NONE besides ME**.

I am the LORD, and there is NO other. [7] I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; **I, the LORD, DO ALL these things**.

James 4:10 (NIV) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

TAKE AWAY ??

James 3:2 (NIV) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is **never at FAULT in what he SAYS**, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

It is LIKE a Log spanning over the treacherous terrain...

John 1:14 (NIV) The **WORD became flesh** and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, **FULL of GRACE and TRUTH**.

To walk in the **TRUTH of God's Word** we will need both **GRACE** and **TRUTH**

Mark 10:45 (NLT) For even the Son of Man came **NOT to be served** but to SERVE others and to **GIVE His life as a ransom for many.**"

James 4:10 (NIV) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. (NIV)