

Faith That Works

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Text: James 4:11-12

“¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”

1. WHAT IS IT?

2. WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT IT?

A) IT'S BEEN AROUND A LONG, LONG TIME – SEE Genesis 3:1-6

B) THE BIBLE HAS IT COVERED –

Cross references: Leviticus 19:16; Psalms 50:19-20; Romans 1:29-30; Psalms 101:5; Psalms 140:11; Proverbs 20:19; Matthew 15:19; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; 1 Peter 2:1; Proverbs 16:28, 17:9, 11:9; Isaiah 32:7

3. WHY IS IT SO DESTRUCTIVE?

A) IT _____ – v.11

B) IT _____ GOD
HIMSELF – v.12

To control the sin of slandering others we must recognize the seriousness of sinning against the supreme lawgiver and judge.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

Please look up the following verses and come up with a better prescription for working out your faith with others (instead of the tendency to slander/speak evil):

1 Peter 4:8; Matthew 18:15-19; Galatians 6:1-2....

Select one of the following stories and describe the toxic activity of slander taking place and the consequences: Genesis 31:1ff (Jacob and Laban); 2 Samuel 16:3 w/ 2 Samuel 19:25-27 (Ziba and Mephibosheth); 1 Kings 21 (Naboth and Jezebel); Ezra 4:6-16 w/ 7:17-24 (rebuilding of Jerusalem); Nehemiah 6:5-7 (Geshem the Arab and Nehemiah); Esther 3:8 (Haman), et al....

Examining the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) reveals them to be features of love verbalized. E.g. – The first commandment, “*You shall have no other gods before Me*” shows that love is not fickle, but single-minded, devoted, loyal. Check out the rest and see if you can come up with ways each verbalizes love. ☺

It is helpful to examine in prayer how well we are doing at loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. We can ask God to help us examine our way. Several questions to ask are:

- Have I given myself the benefit of the doubt, but refused it to my brother or sister?
- Have I made excuses for my shortcomings, but remained intolerant of others?
- Have I judged my brothers and sisters according to the letter of the law while expecting grace for myself?

Consider these words by Puritan William Beveridge as you close –

*“I cannot pray,
except I sin;*

*I cannot preach,
but I sin;*

*I cannot administer, nor
receive the holy sacrament,
but I sin.*

*My very repentance needs
to be repented of;
And the tears I shed
need washing in the
blood of Christ”*