

SERMON OUTLINE James 4:11-12

Do Not Slander for it Leads to Destruction

BE DOERS OF THE WORD OF GOD, NOT HEARERS ONLY (11C)

DO THE GOOD WORK OF NOT SPEAKING EVIL (11A)

James's Main Charge

The Meaning of James's Charge

THE REASONS BEHIND JAMES'S COMMAND (11B - 12)

- 1. Speaking Evil Against Another Is the Product of Sinful Condemnation*
- 2. Evil Words and Sinful Condemnations Violate the Heart of the Law*
- 3. Persisting in Evil Words and Sinful Condemnations Is to Condemn the Law of God*
- 4. Condemning the Law of God is to Place Yourself Above God*
- 5. Placing Yourself Above God Leads to Destruction*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

This passage is a three-part argument. (1) He restated his larger charge to be doers of the Word of God, not merely hearers of it. (2) Under that banner, he gave the specific charge to be doers of the word by not speaking evil against one another. (3) He gave specific reasons why God forbids this kind of speech. The main application is to not slander, but encourage the saints.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever been slandered or been around someone who was slandering? What was your response? Was it easy for you to see the evil in it or were you tempted to join in?
3. In what ways did James 4:11-12 and Pastor Dave's sermon on it help you see the seriousness of slander?
4. Throughout our time in James have you found any persistent ways you're hearing but not doing God's Word? Has slander ever been among them? How has our time in James helped you to address it?
5. Prior to this sermon, were you aware of how much the Bible speaks about and against slander?
6. Many people today like to quote passages that prohibit judgment. Could you explain to someone else the difference between sinful condemnation (prohibited) and godly discernment (commanded)?
7. Do/did you tend to explain your reasoning to your kids? Why? What was the usual result?
8. Which of James's reasons for prohibiting slander do you find most compelling (speaking evil against another is the product of sinful condemnation, evil words and sinful condemnations violate the heart of the law, persisting in evil words and sinful condemnations is to condemn the law of God, condemning the law of God is to place yourself above God, placing yourself above God leads to destruction)?
9. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Stop slandering others.
11. Make a list of anyone in your family or at Grace Church that you've been tempted to speak poorly of, write out evidences of Grace you see in them, begin to thank God for those evidences of grace, and when the time is right, share some with them.
12. If you struggle with slander, or know someone who does, work through the different passages on slander cited in Pastor Dave's sermon and begin to pray that God would fill you with love toward that person.
13. Share the gospel with someone this week.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for the life-giving power of His words. Praise God for His mercy and grace. Praise God for being generous and kind. Praise God for being our great provider.
16. Confession. Confess your hatred and slander (in heart and word). Confess despising God's Word. Confess placing yourself above God. Confess your lack of love for others.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for your forgiveness and life in Christ. Thank God for your church. Thank God for healing.
18. Supplication. Pray for our church to speak words of encouragement and not slander. Pray for healing to take place wherever slander has done damage. Pray for the leaders of Grace Church to never put themselves above God in their leadership.