



Sermon Discussion Guide

June 22, 2025 | James 4:11-12 | Brad

SUMMARY

Big Idea: You cannot be Right with God, and Wrong with a Brother

Critical, condemning speech is incompatible with the necessary posture of humility that should mark all true believers. Genuine faith yields humility before God (see the previous verses, 4:6-10.) Humility before God will, necessarily bear the fruit of being humble toward one another in Love. In our condemning words and thoughts toward one another, we exert ourselves over them, over the Law of Love, and over the author of that Law, God himself. Christians who are rightly relating to God in humility, will find sweet harmony and joy in the disposition of humility overflowing into neighbor love. The flesh leads us only UP, to push other down. The Spirit leads us only DOWN, to build one another up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro

1. What are some of your pet peeves?

Read James 4:11-12

2. What is the command?
3. What reasons does James give for why this command is so serious? Can you follow his logical progression?
4. How does this relate to the previous verses, 4:6-10?
 - a. In what way is this command, and our breach of it, a “test” of our humility before God?
5. Do you normally think that the way we treat our brothers and sisters is a 1:1 picture of how it is that we are relating to God? (see also 1Jn 4:20)
 - a. Why is this convicting? How is this helpful?
6. For you, when and where, in what circumstances are you most prone to be judgmental and condemning toward others?
 - a. Are you more likely to speak condemning words..
 - i. To someone’s face?
 - ii. To someone else (gossip/slander)?
 - iii. To yourself?
 - b. If kept to yourself, how do such thoughts inevitably shape and inform how we relate to them?
 - i. Where have you seen this play out in your life?
7. How do you keep in your heart and mind the truth that God who alone is able to condemn and destroy – is also, wonderfully, the one who is able to save?
 - a. How does this truth not only forgive us, but free us from the need to condemn others?
8. What it look like for you today or this week to get right with God, by getting right with a brother or sister?