

The Problem Of Judgmentalism

James 4:11-12

1. Speaking Judgmentally Against Others Makes Us Superior To Others (11a)

11a Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. (Rom 14:4-5; Mt 7:1-5, 15-16)

2. Speaking Judgmentally Against God's Law Makes Us Superior To God's Word (11b)

11b 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. (James 2:12; 1 Tim 6:3-5)

3. Speaking Judgmentally Against God's Law Makes Us Superior To God (12)

12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (Mt 10:28; Rom 12:17-21)

Conclusion:

- Realize we are all sinners saved by God's grace and think humbly when we're prone to self-righteous judging.
- Make sure our issues to fight for are God's issues. Be gracious when it's an issue of preference over righteousness.
- Don't take God's role of Judge and Avenger. Share the hope with others of how we're saved from judgment.

Discussion:

- Do we struggle more with thinking we're superior to others, God's Word or God? Why?
- What issues inflame your self-righteousness?
- How does our self-righteousness motivate a spirit of judgmentalism?
- How does our salvation enable us to be more gracious?