

JUDGING YOUR NEIGHBOR

JAMES 4:11 (PART I)

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Humility is powered by grace and it is seeing yourself as not above any other person. It begins with that person next to you wherever you are.

MAY BE JUSTIFIED. Believers are clearly taught to choose between right and wrong, between morality and immorality, and between bonding with believers and bonding with unbelievers. To make choices such as these is justifiable. (**Matthew 9:9-13, fn 9:10-13, Ephesians 5:6-14, fn 5:5-7, II Corinthians 6:14-18, fn 6:14-18, I Corinthians 5:9-13, fn 5:12, II Thessalonians 3:6-12, fn 3:6-15, fn 3:11, 12**) *How could the lack of justifiable judging be harmful? Pick a situation.*

MAY BE JUDGING THAT SLANDERS. “Literally (Greek) the command is, ‘Do not speak down on one another, brothers,’ or ‘Do not speak against one another, brethren’ (NASB). Slander is malicious speech that is untrue. But the command here forbids *any speech* (whether it is true or false) which runs down another person.” R. Kent Hughes, *James: Faith That Works*, p. 194. (**James 4:11, fn 4:11, 12, Proverbs 10:18, fn 10:18, Matthew 15:16-20, fn 15:16-20, Isaiah 11:1-5, fn 11:3-5, Colossians 3:8-10, fn 3:8-10**) *Since slandering is so easy for us to do, how can you keep from slandering?*

SHOULD REALIZE AND JUDGE THE SOURCE. Satan is the adversary of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of Satan’s chief aims is to divide the Lord’s people, and he is constantly accusing the brethren before the Lord. Therefore, his name means accuser. When you run down your neighbor, you join forces with the source of all evil, the Devil. (**James 4:11, Revelation 12:10, fn 12:10, Job 1:6-12, fn 1:6, 7, fn 1:6-12, Luke 4:1-13, fn 4:1, 2, fn 4:1-13, James 4:7, fn 4:7**) *How could Scripture memory help you to build your neighbor up instead of running him down?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

