LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

November 13, 2022
Worship Service
Pastor Bruce Adrian
WeAreLifeBridge.com

JAMES: Real Faith, Real Life

Lesson Nineteen • James 4:11-12

Arrogant Speaking

Warning Against Sins of Arrogance or Attitudes that Contradict Humility

The first warning is against the sin of arrogant SPEAKING.

Stop What You're Doing

1. Stop Speaking EVIL Against One Another!

"Don't Speak Evil Against One Another" (vs. 11)

It means "don't speak DOWN ON" one another—don't backbite, criticize, defame, malign, or slander one another.

To "speak evil" refers to derogatory speech that is maliciously intended to influence others against another person.

Leviticus 19:16-18 Matthew 12:34-37

2. Stop Playing GOD in Relation to Others!

"Judges His Brother" (vs. 11)

When we speak evil against another person we are JUDGING that person and putting ourselves in the place of God.

Is All Judging Always Wrong?

- If James forbids ALL judgment, he condemns himself and contradicts Jesus *(James 4:4, John 7:24)*.
- James is not saying we should never make RIGHT judgments or use good judgment *(Mat. 7:15, John 7:24, 1 Cor. 2:15 & 5:1-3, Gal. 1:9, Heb. 5:14, 1 John 4:1)*.
- James is forbidding JUDGMENTALISM, a critical spirit that judges everyone and everything, seeking to run others down.

Source of Judgmentalism

- It comes from a low view of GOD'S LAW *(vs. 11)*.

  Implication: If we judge another person, then we judge the law as unworthy of our obedience and disregard God's law.

- It comes from a high view of SELF *(vs. 12)*.

  Implication: If we judge another person, then we ultimately usurp God's authority as Lawgiver and Judge.

Consider James' Question

"Who are YOU to judge your neighbor?"

Cure for a Judgmental Heart

Recognize that JESUS is both Judge and Savior, and only He can free us from a judgmental heart.