

PM OUTLINE
DEC. 14, 2014

“SPEAK NOT EVIL ONE OF ANOTHER, BRETHREN”

(James 4:11)

INTRODUCTION - James speaks to brethren who would unjustly speak about one another.

1. **(James 4:11-12) “Speak not evil one of another, brethren.** (“one against another”)
He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law:
But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver (ASV adds “and judge”), who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judges another?”

“Speak not evil ... “ - James is condemning the habit or practice of doing this.

The sentence structure forbids the action, and also the will to do so; meaning, don't express harsh words and entertain evil thoughts concerning a brother.

It's “evil speaking,” malicious, with the intent to keep putting them in a bad light, a continuous or habitual tearing down of a brother, and giving a slanderous report.

(Psalm 15:1-3) “Who shall abide in thy tabernacle? ... he that backbites not ... “

“He that speaks evil of his brother ... “ - What's wrong with habitual bad-mouthing a brother?

- 1) **“judges his brother”** - we put the worst possible interpretation on their actions or words.
- 2) **“speaks evil of the law”** (“against the law”) - our action ignores the law of love, and we act in a fashion contrary to the law of love, and we think it's OK to “speak evil of another.”
- 3) **“and judges the law”** - by our action, we pass judgment on the law by declaring that it is not good nor worthy to be obeyed: the law says, “Speak not evil of one another ... “

Example: The law places a sign at the corner that says, “No right turn on red.”

I arrive at the corner, see the sign, and say, “What we're they thinking? I think that I can make a safe turn on red here,” and I do so.

I just spoke against the law and those who made it.

- 4) **“thou art not a doer of the law”** - I disobeyed the law, violated it, by “speaking evil.”
- 5) **“but a judge”** - I just became California's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and judged the law as ridiculous, not worthy of obeying, and changed it.
- 6) **“There is one lawgiver and judge ... “** - and it's not me. (Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:8)

“Who are you that judges another?” - God said it, that settles it, whether I believe it or not.

2. **(James 5:9) “Grudge not one against another, brethren.”** (ASV “murmur not”)

“Grudge” - resentment; grievance; a deep-seated ill will.

“Murmur” - mutter; grumble; complain; an under your breath steady flow of words.

(1 Cor. 10:10-11) “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured ... “

(Numb. 14:26-27) “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me?”

Here's a partial list of Israel's murmuring: (Ex. 15:24; Ex. 16:7; Ex. 17:3; Numb. 14:2; Numb. 14:29; Numb. 16:41; Deut. 1:27)

CLOSE - read again the two texts, keep them, and do not judge them unworthy to be obeyed.