



Judging the Law

James 4:11-12

The Christian and Judging

Unrighteous Judgment

- It is illogical to make a blanket condemnation of all judging. Such is a judgment itself.
- **Hypocritical** – *Matthew 7:1-6*
- **Self-righteous** – *Luke 18:9-14*
- **Appearance** – *James 2:1-4*

The Christian and Judging

Righteous Judgment

- Jesus said to judge with “*righteous judgment*” – *John 7:24*
 - (v. 22) – Is circumcision on the Sabbath wrong? No.
 - (v. 23) – Then healing on the Sabbath is not wrong.
 - (v. 24) – Their judgment was superficial and rash.
- Righteous judgment is that which is according to the righteous standard – *John 5:30*

The Judging of James 4:11-12

Prohibition – speaking evil/judging one another

- “*Speak evil*” – *katalaleō*; to be a traducer, i.e. to slander.
(STRONG)
- *Kata* (against) and *laleo* (to speak) – to speak against.

The Judging of James 4:11-12

Prohibition – speaking evil/judging one another

Additional victim – “*the law*” – 1:25; 2:12

- Is judging another’s actions based on what the law says “speaking against” “the law?” No – *James 5:19-20*
- Is judging another’s actions as evil contrary to what the law reveals “speaking against” “the law?” Yes.

The Judging of James 4:11-12

Prohibition – speaking evil/judging one another

Additional victim – “*the law*” – 1:25; 2:12

Implication – no longer “*doer*,” but “*judge*”

- What does a “*doer*” look like? – 1:19-27
- What does a “*judge*,” or “*Lawgiver*” look like? – 2:10-12; 4:17; John 12:48

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- Offense – making a judgment that another’s actions are sinful when the law does not say so. Thus, implying a greater sphere of knowledge than the law.
- The law is sufficient – *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- We must not go beyond the law – *1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9; 1 Peter 4:11*

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Additional victim – “*the law*” – 1:25; 2:12

Implication – no longer “*doer*,” but “*judge*”

Admonition – “*Who are you to judge another?*”

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Application

- **Liberties** – matters which God has revealed as lawful, but irrelevant – *Romans 14:1-4* – (Ex: Marriage vs Celibacy)
- **Opinions** – matters of subjective judgment concerning the expediency of certain liberties – *Acts 18:1-3* – (Ex: Home school vs Public school)
- **Traditions** – long-established exercise of certain liberties as a matter of preference or expediency – *Matthew 15:1-2* – (Ex: Time and Format of Worship)



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