

Day Ten

James 4:11-17

11 Do not *speak* evil against one another, brothers. 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*. 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?



I. How We Respond to _____ (4:11-12)

A. The Nature of God

1. God is righteous, not _____.
 - a) The word translated “evil” has the idea of traducing. To traduce means to “*speak badly of or tell lies about someone so as to damage their reputation.*”
 - b) This word only shows up three times. The other two times are in I Peter.
 - (1) I Peter 2:12, “*Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they **speak against** you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*”
 - (2) I Peter 3:16, “*Having a good conscience, so that, when you are **slandered**, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*”
 - c) The Jew would have known from Numbers 23:19 that God cannot lie: “*God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.*”
 - d) In addition, we know from Titus 1:2 that God cannot lie: “*which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.*”
2. Therefore we must not speak anything evil against _____. (4:11a)
 - a) Our words to and about people must be honest, loving, and for the glory of God.
 - b) This ties back to the importance of allowing God to bridle our tongue so that we can speak wisely.
3. God is also the only _____. This is the only time in Scripture this word is used.
4. Therefore, we must not lay down a law contrary to His. (4:12a)
 - a) When we do what He has commanded us not to do, we’re saying that we have a _____ plan.
 - b) Our sin attacks God and calls Him a liar by judging His law to be faulty.
5. God is also the only _____.
 - a) The word translated “judge” means to condemn and punish. It takes the position of judge, jury, and executioner.
 - b) The prohibitions in the Bible against judging always refer to judging people.

- (1) In Luke 6:37 Jesus says, "*Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;*"
 - (2) God the Father is the ultimate condemner of men. Jesus Himself even abdicates this responsibility. In John 8:15 He says, "*You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.*"
 - (3) In I Corinthians 4:3 Paul says, "*But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.*"
- c) However, the occasions in Scripture where we are told that we should judge deal with judging behaviors, words, and decisions.
- (1) John 7:24, "*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*"
I Corinthians 5:11-12 reads, "*But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you."*
 - (2) Then the very next chapter starts off this way: "*When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!*"
6. Therefore — based on the nature of God — we must not _____ our neighbors. (4:12b)

B. The Nature of Truth

1. Truth is everything that is not _____.
2. Speaking evil directly attacks Truth.
3. Since the Scriptures are God's revelation of Truth, speaking evil attacks the _____.
4. Therefore — based on the nature of Truth — we must not judge the Scriptures to be untrue by speaking evil against others. (4:11b)

C. The Nature of Faith

1. Faith is _____ if it doesn't have works that prove its existence.
2. If we judge the law, it's impossible for us to be doers of the law.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of Faith — we must speak in ways that align with the law and consequently proves our faith in the Word of God. (4:11c)

D. The Nature of Wisdom

1. Wisdom is the outworking of _____.
2. True faith will produce actions that are _____.

3. Therefore — based on the nature of wisdom — we must speak righteously, believe the Scriptures, and do the tasks God's commanded us to do (as opposed to doing His jobs). (4:11-12)

E. The Nature of Worship

1. True worship doesn't try to take God's _____.
 2. Therefore — based on the nature of worship — we must not try to usurp the position of lawmaker and judge. (4:12)
- F. So . . . based off everything we believe to be true about God, we can only rightly worship Him by wisely _____ to God's Law, judging actions and not individuals, and speaking truth in love to and about all people.

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

II. How We Respond to the _____ (4:13-17)

A. The Nature of God

1. God knows what tomorrow brings.
2. God's life is the very essence of eternal, not merely a finite, vanishing mist. This speaks to the fact that He not only knows the future, He's already _____ and is powerful enough to deal with it.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of God — when making plans about the future, we need to _____ them to God. (4:15)
 - a) This means that we plan in line with God's will.
 - b) We surrender to God's changes in our plans because we know His way is best. (reminiscent of chapter 1).

B. The Nature of Truth

1. Truth is what will _____.
2. We don't know the Truth about the future, but we do know the Truth about how we are to live and _____ for the future.
3. Therefore — based on the nature of Truth — we must focus on knowing what is right. (4:17)

C. The Nature of Faith

1. Faith in God's control will humble us. Only faith in ourselves will cause us to _____ in arrogance. (4:13 & 16)
2. That evil boasting will reveal the health of our faith.

3. Therefore — based on the nature of faith — we must humbly submit to God's _____ for our lives and trust Him to do what is best. (4:15-17)

D. The Nature of Wisdom

1. Wisdom is doing what is _____. We can know what's right, but if we don't do it, we're not wise.
2. Therefore — based on the nature of wisdom — if we know something is right and we don't _____, we're being foolish and sinning. (4:17)

E. The Nature of Worship

1. God-worship is founded in all He is and has nothing to do with who _____ are, what we want, or what we can do.
2. Therefore — based on the nature of worship — we will worship the Lord as the all-knowing, eternal God of the universe instead of worshiping our finite selves. He will be the object of our _____. We will turn to Him to formulate our plans, we will trust in Him to accomplish what He deems best, and we'll humbly submit to Him as we plan and as He upsets our plans. And we'll do all of this because it's _____.