

JUDGING OTHERS

James 4:11-12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: God hates all sin, but there are some that His Word just never lets up on and one of those is "judging. Judging others is severely condemned. The "gifted" especially wrestle with some "special" sins. All of us are guilty of this particular sin, who hasn't passed judgment on someone else, however this temptation seems to strike the "gifted" more often.

I. JUDGING OTHERS IS SPEAKING EVIL AGAINST THEM

1. James 4:11
2. "Speaking evil" means to criticize, judge, backbite, gossip, censor, condemn, and grumble against another person.
 - talk about, tear down, to talk behind the back.
3. Judging others is a sin.
 - If God forbids us to speak evil of a person who is really guilty of sin, how much more are we forbidden to speak against a person just because we disagree or don't like him/her?
 - The Scripture says that this is EVIL SPEAKING.
4. Believers are not to judge or speak evil of one another. Believers are to:
 - be loving, caring, and looking after one another.
 - be supporting, encouraging, and building one another up.
 - be reaching out and helping one another.
5. When one speaks evil of one another, it means that he/she is neither humble nor loving, but the very opposite: prideful and hateful. Why do people tend to judge and criticize one another?
 - To boost one's own self-image, to make someone appear "smaller."
 - It is simply enjoyed.
 - It makes one feel that his/her life is morally better.
 - It gives one a good feeling in front of his/her friends, whom he/she wants to impress.
 - It is an outlet for hurt and revenge.
6. 2 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 4:31; 1 Peter 2:1; Psalm 101:5

II. JUDGING OTHERS VIOLATES THE LAW OF GOD

1. James 4:11
2. When a person talks about and condemns others, he/she is violating the greatest of all laws - the law of love.
 - Christians are to love their neighbors as themselves.
 - It puts one above the law in his/her own mind and actions.
 - It makes one guilty of double sin: violate the law of love, and criticize others for also breaking the law.
 - It makes one a hypocrite and a slanderer.
3. Matthew 7:1-5; Mark 12:29-31; John 13:34-35; Romans 2:1; 13:8; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8

III. JUDGING OTHERS SETS ONE UP AS A JUDGE OR A LAWGIVER

1. James 4:11
2. We become judges when we pick and choose and declare what someone does/says as good or bad:
 - which laws are more important than others.
 - which laws are more binding than others.
 - which laws deserve more attention than others.
 - which laws should be kept and which can be broken.
3. When one judges, he/she is judging God's law and has decided he/she has the right to slander a brother/sister because he/she has broken a certain law, ignoring the greatest law of all - loving one's brother/sister and neighbor.
 - Matthew 7:3, 21; Romans 12:3; 14:13; James 1:22; 1 John 2:17; Revelation 22:14

IV. JUDGING OTHERS USURPS GOD'S RIGHT AND AUTHORITY

1. James 4:12
2. There is only ONE law-giver and that is God. He alone has the right to judge and criticize.
 - When we judge, criticize others, we are claiming the right to sit in judgment on our brothers/sisters.
 - No one has the right to sit upon the throne of God's judgment, picking out the shortcomings and failures of anybody.
3. God will not tolerate anybody setting him/herself up as judge when that person is a sinful person as well as the one being criticized and judged.
4. Other reasons why one should never criticize or judge others:
 - all the circumstances and all the facts are never known by anyone.
 - all of us come short, fail, and fall also at one time or another.
 - all there is to know about that person is never known by us.
 - none of us have been appointed by God to help Him in this area.
5. Romans 14:4; Matthew 7:1; Romans 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:5

CONCLUSION:

1. Nobody is free from sin. Everybody has broken some of God's laws. EVERYBODY is guilty.
2. Nobody has any right, nor authority, to judge, criticize or condemn anybody else for also doing wrong.
3. Instead of judging others, we are to love one another as God has loved us. By this we shall know that we are INDEED believers and members of God's family.
4. There is no place in God's family for members to be judging one another or anybody else.