

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JAMES 4:11-12 & ELSEWHERE

OPEN IT

- ❖ Is it okay to speak against someone as long as we are sure it is the truth? Why or why not?
- ❖ How is constructive criticism different from slander?
- ❖ What do you think you should do if someone slanders another in your presence?

EXPLORE IT

- ❖ Why do you think it was necessary for James to warn a group of believers not to speak evil of one another?
- ❖ Why is talking about people “behind their backs” such a strong temptation at times?
- ❖ Note Romans 14:10-12. Whose role is it to judge a brother or sister in Christ? What will believers do standing before God’s judgment seat?
- ❖ What do think God would say to someone who spoke evil about His law and placed themselves as a judge over God’s law? How will an awareness of this affect you the next time you are about to speak evil of another Christian?
- ❖ If we slander or accuse our brothers and sisters, whom are we like (Revelation 12:10)? What does Christ do instead (1 John 2:1-2)? What implications do these truths have for us?

APPLY IT

- ❖ What do you sense God is tell you from James 4:11-12?
- ❖ Recall the last time you spoke against another person. If you haven’t done so, confess your arrogance to God and ask for the grace to change.
- ❖ How has pride damaged your relationship with others?
- ❖ How can you begin to bring healing to those relationships?
- ❖ What steps can you take to develop a spirit of humility?

CONSIDER IT

Note 2 Corinthians 12:20-21. Conflict in the church is not a new problem. Look at the list Paul is concerned he will find in the church in Corinth. Even though our tendency toward sin brings pain and conflict, God is faithful in continuing to establish the church as a place where sinners can hear the Gospel and be saved!