

7. How is criticizing another believer the same as judging God's law?
8. How does this teaching fit with Jesus' words in Matthew 7:1-5 about judging others?
9. What heart attitude often lies behind a critical or judgmental spirit?

LIVE IT - How should this change the way I live?

10. How do you tend to "speak against" others – through gossip, sarcasm, venting, or "sharing concerns"?
11. What would it look like to **be a doer of the law** instead of a judge of it?
12. This week, how can you let **grace guide your words**, especially in conversations about other believers?

GRACE SPEAKS A BETTER WORD

JAMES 4:11-12

*the cross changed your **verdict**.
let it change your **vocabulary**.*

GRACE SPEAKS A BETTER WORD

JAMES 4:11-12

I. DON'T TEAR DOWN (v.11)

Criticism is when your words become _____ instead of tools.

IF YOU'VE BEEN HUMBLLED BY GRACE, YOU CAN'T KEEP TALKING LIKE YOU'RE BETTER THAN GRACE.

LIVE IT OUT:

If you can't pray it, don't say it.

II. JUDGING VS. DISCERNING (v. 11)

When you judge, you start seeing others as problems to _____ instead of people to _____.

MATTHEW 7:3

Judging speaks from _____. Discernment speaks from _____.

LIVE IT OUT:

Before you correct someone, check your heart.

III. JUDGING GOD'S LAW (v. 11)

When you criticize someone, you're saying,
"The _____ does not apply to me."

That's what happens when believers treat God's Word like a _____ instead of a standard.

LIVE IT OUT:

Choose to live under the law of love, not above it.

III. ONLY ONE JUDGE (v. 12)

You don't _____ about an individual to cast judgment.

Before you speak, ask:

- Is it true?
- Is it necessary?
- Is it kind?

LIVE IT OUT:

Let God handle the judging; you handle the loving.

#11 DIVE DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

JAMES 4:11-12

1. What stuck out the most to you from this week's message?

SEE IT - What do you notice about this passage?

2. What two commands or prohibitions does James give in verse 11?
3. Who is James addressing, and why is that important?
4. What connection does James make between judging others and judging the law?
5. In verse 12, how does James describe God? What two roles belong to Him alone?

BELIEVE IT - What does this passage mean?

6. What does it mean to be critical of someone in practical, everyday terms?