

# #ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

## REFLECTION- Adults Don't Judge

Passage: James 4:11-12

02/13/26

**James 4:11-12** | Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. **12** There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

**Vs 11-12 We use God's Law as a weapon to destroy others making us a transgressor of it – this is wrong.**

- James continues to teach on the power of the tongue and how it can be used to tear others down. The issue arises when Christians use God's Word to pass judgment on others while violating the Word themselves; when done in this way, it is not wrapped in love, but rather in hypocrisy and darkness. As followers of Jesus, our responsibility is to keep the royal law ourselves. By doing so, we gain discernment to come alongside our brothers and sisters when they are struggling in sin, approaching them with grace and love.

### Can we judge others?

- Matthew 7:1-5 says to first remove the log out of your eye. Do not be a hypocrite.
- Galatians 6:1-10 says the purpose is to win our brothers not lose them
- 1 Peter 4:8 says to keep fervent in prayer to one another
- Ephesians 4:15 says to speak to one another in love
- Philippians 1:9-10 says that we should pray that our love will drive us to real knowledge and discernment towards others.

### Application – Wait, Think and Tame...

- **WAIT** – Why **A**m **I** Talking
- **THINK** – Is it **T**True? Is it **H**elpful? Is it **I**nspiring? Is it **N**ecessary? Is it **K**ind?
- **TAME** –
  - **T**hink before you talk - James 1:9
    - Engage your mind before you talk - Philippians 4:8
  - **A**sk God to purify your heart - Matthew 12:34, Psalm 51:10
  - **M**editate on God's Word - Psalm 119:15, Romans 12:2
    - Fill your time with edifying items
  - **E**ncounter God's presence - Isaiah 6:1, Isaiah 6:5

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 4:11-12 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. Read Matthew 12:36, Proverbs 10:18, & 1 Peter 2:1. What is slander and what does the Bible say about it?
3. What is James 4:11-12 asking us to do with our words towards others? Who, when, and where do you find yourself guilty of this?
4. Read Matthew 7:1-5 & Galatians 6:1-10. When is it acceptable to judge others?
5. Read Matthew 18:15-17, Ephesians 4:15, 1 Peter 4:8 & Philippians 1:9-10. How should we handle and approach others with issues?