



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Judging

JANUARY 11, 2012

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The Epistle of James' (AD 45-50) likely author was James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ, a humble man, the leader of the Jerusalem church and the leader of the Council of Jerusalem. While James is addressing the twelve tribes that had scattered to all parts of the world and attempts to be encouraging to the believing Jews who were struggling with trials and tribulations, he confronts the issue of the testing and fruit of a faithful Christian's walk and the wise Godly righteous reactions of him when grounded in total faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will battle the enemies of the world, their flesh and Satan (3:15). Wisdom's foundation is either from man or from God and people will need to make a choice. (James 4:11-12 NASB) How should Christians treat other Christians?

“Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”(4:11)

Do not speak evil of or against another Christian. While people many times are prideful, worldly minded, and tempted to criticize the motives and hearts of others, Christians are not to do this. In the verses prior (4:6-10) it says that believers are to be humble and not proud.

When one speaks against another several events take place. First, when a believer speaks evil of another believer or judges him, he speaks against the law. This does not mean that Christian shouldn't hold another believer accountable (Mt 18:15-17, Ac 20:31, 1Co4:14) when it is based upon another's actions or deeds. This 'judging' is when a believer criticizes the heart and motive of another, and James says that they are judging the law. Secondly, James says if a Christian judges the law, he is not a doer of the law but a judge of the law.

When a believer judges another believer, they are judging the law and in turn disobeying God by placing themselves above the law. Man, including believers, is not the judge of the law. Who gave and is the judge of the law?

“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? (4:12)

There Is One Judge, God. God is the only Lawgiver and Judge. James goes on to share that this One, God, is able to save (us) and to destroy (us). God is the only one with the right to judge, the power to punish, worthy of following and by His Grace can save.

*“For the LORD is our judge, The LORD is our lawgiver, The LORD is our king; He will save us—
“(Is 33:22)*

James is stating that judging and judgment is God's alone. In the Book of John, he supports this truth.

“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,” (Jn 5:22)

For Your Consideration:

- Do you find yourself judging the motives and heart of a fellow believer or do you hold them accountable, after taking the plank out of your own eye (Lk 6:37-42), to their actions or deeds?
- Are you a doer of the Word and not a judge?
- Do you give God the glory for being the Lawgiver, Judge, and Savior?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44