

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother **Don't Speak Evil of Others — James 4:11-12**

What is James telling us not to do? (v.11)

Don't speak evil against others.

Don't judge others.

Generally speaking, we should never speak negatively about others, unless —

- A. I'm speaking to the person with the shortcoming, and spoken privately, lovingly, humbly, in order to help them (Matt 18:15)
- B. I'm speaking to others carefully, lovingly, humbly, so they can help you help the person with the shortcoming (Matt 18:16-17).
- C. I'm speaking to others in order to warn them about the person with the shortcoming (Matt 16:6,12)

But apart from those exceptions, we should not speak negatively about someone.

Why is it so serious to speak evil against another? (vv.11-12)

Because when we speak evil of others, we speak evil of God's Law (v.11).

Leviticus 19:16
Proverbs 17:9
Matthew 5:21-22

And if we are speaking evil of God's law, then we are not doers of God's law, which James has told us is extremely serious.

Because when we speak evil of others, we are denying our own sinfulness (v.12)

And if we are denying our own sinfulness, then we are denying our need for a Savior, we are not trusting Jesus as Savior, which is extremely serious.

What can I do to change?

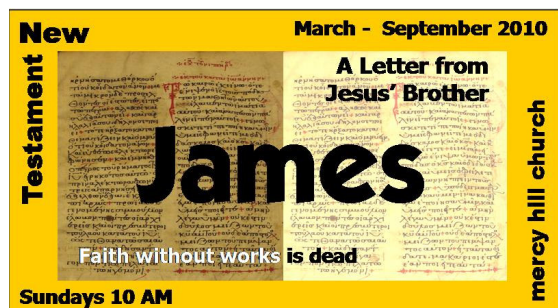
See how serious this is.

Pray for Jesus' help.

Nurture love for and submission to God's Word.

Keep on your knees before the Cross.

Focus on speaking well of others.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Before Sunday's teaching, how seriously did you take this issue of speaking negatively of others? How did Sunday's teaching affect you?

Does it make sense that apart from the 3 exceptions, we should not speak about people's shortcomings? Why or why not?

Do you have settings in which you fall into speaking negatively? What are those settings?

Can you see how, when you speak negatively, you are speaking negatively about God's Law? Why is that so serious?

Can you see how, when you speak negatively, you are denying that you are a sinner? Why is that so serious?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

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A Letter from Jesus' Brother James

Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM

mercy hill church