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# Studies in the Book of James

## *Treating Brethren Fairly (James 4:11-12)*

### *Lesson #10, Sunday, March 10, 2019*

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#### **I. Introduction**

1. James began this section (4:1) with the question, "Where do wars and fights *come* from among you?"
2. He answered his question in verses 2-6 and in verses 7-10 teaches how battles can end.
3. Verses 11-12 adds one more thing that must end if battles are to cease.
  1. <sup>11</sup> Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.  
<sup>12</sup> There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

#### **II. James is NOT teaching.**

1. That it is wrong to mark false teachers. (1 Tim. 2:17-18, 3:8)
2. That it is wrong to mark those who cause division over matters of indifference. (Rom. 16:17-18)
3. That it is wrong to mark who have become unfaithful. (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 4:10)

#### **III. James is teaching.**

1. That it is wrong to speak evil of one another.
2. Speaking evil means to:
  1. "To slander; to speak evil of; to speak against; to say bad things about a person. To "speak against" (*katalaleite*) means to criticize, judge, backbite, gossip, censor, condemn, and grumble against another person.
  2. "Furthermore, it means to talk about and to tear down another person; to share things about another person that cut and hurt him and that lower his image and reputation in the eyes of others. The word usually means to talk about a person behind his back when he is not present". (Practical Word Studies in The New Testament.)
3. David said:
  1. Psalm 15:1-3 (NKJV)
    - <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
    - <sup>2</sup> He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;
    - <sup>3</sup> He *who* does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
  4. When one speaks evil of his brother and judges (condemns him), they raise themselves above the law and God who gave it. No one has a right to do that!

#### **IV. How to treat brethren fairly.**

1. Accusations against elders are to be received *only* after \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Tim. 5:19-22). Why is this a good example of what we should do with accusations against brethren?

2. What kind of judging does Mt. 7:1-4 condemn?
3. How does the practice of the golden rule stop “evil speaking”? (Mt. 7:14; Lk. 6:31)
4. Peter writes in 1 Pet. 1:22 of their sincere love (Gk. Phileo) of the brethren and then commands them to love (Gk. Agapao) fervently. Look up the meaning of these two Greek words and apply them to the way we should speak to and about one another.
5. What does it mean to forgive someone? (Eph. 4:32)
6. What are the benefits of forgiving? (Eph. 4:32)
7. When we are wronged and the offending person won't correct the offense, how can we avoid holding a grudge? (Rom. 12:19)
8. Jewish and Gentile Christian were condemning one another over matters of indifference. From the following scriptures determine what their attitude SHOULD have been:
  1. Romans 14:4
  2. Romans 14:10
  3. Romans 14:13
  4. Romans 14:15
  5. Romans 14:20
  6. Romans 14:14
  7. Romans 14:23
9. What responsibility do we have to our brethren in respect to their conscience? (1 Cor. 8:1-13)
10. List Bible examples of those who forgave.