"Don't Slander, Judge, or Boast, but Do the Good"
James 4:11-17 Pastor Bob Brandhagen

11 **Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.** 1 Peter 2:12 1 Peter 3:16

We are commanded here not to slander one another. It is bad and wrong to slander those who don't follow Jesus, but here the focus is on not slandering your brother or sister in Christ.

Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. 1 Cor 5:12-13

Lovingly rebuking or correcting a believer is not prohibited (2 Tim 4:2), though slander is.

Judgment—but only of a believer—is sometimes permitted (1 Cor 5:12-13), though not always.

Slandering or carelessly evaluating a fellow believer is offensive to God, who takes it as a slandering and judging of His own law. Slander of God's child = slander of God's law.

When you judge the law, . . . by wrongly judging a brother or sister . . .

you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

*Our job is not to refuse God's law.* Psalm 78:10

*God gives joy and inheritance so that we will keep His law.* Psalm 105:43-45

*We need to pray that God would teach us His law.* Psalm 119:29

12 **There is only one Lawgiver and Judge.** When it comes to lawgivers and judges, the Lord God is in a select company of One.

If there is only one bald eagle in the world, we say that creature is endangered.

There is only One Lawgiver and Judge. But God is not endangered. Rather, *He endangers.* The One Lawgiver and Judge endangers all who do not call upon Him, and follow His Son.

There are two senators in each of the fifty states. There are nine judges on the U. S. Supreme Court. Whether they know it or not, whether they agree or not, that fact is, "there is only One Lawgiver and Judge."


And, unlike earthly legislators and judges, only God, the Lawgiver and Judge is:

**the one who is able to save and destroy.** But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

James was not condemning the starting of businesses, nor industriousness, nor earning money.

13 **Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”**

Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. Matt 6:33-34

We may think we know what will happen tomorrow, but all we really have are plans and ideas.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Psalm 90

15 **Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”**

He is warning against a view of "tomorrow"—a view of Monday morning—that has a godless, prideful, willfulness about it that is not the Lord's will. James is condemning a modern-day reenactment of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9).

16 **As it is, you boast** Psa 44:8 Prov 27:1 1 Cor 1:31 Jer 9:23-24


All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’ t do it, it is sin for them.
11 **Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another.**  
We are commanded here not to slander *one another*. It is _____ and wrong to slander those who don't follow Jesus, but here the focus is on not slandering your brother or sister in Christ.

**Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it.**  
Lovingly rebuking or correcting a believer is _____ prohibited (2 Tim 4:2), though slander is.

Judgment—but only of a believer—is sometimes permitted (1 Cor 5:12-13), though not always.

Slandering or carelessly evaluating a fellow believer is offensive to God, who takes it as a slandering and judging of His own _______. Slander of God's child = slander of God's law.

**When you judge the law,** . . . by wrongly judging a brother or sister . . .

you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

Our job is not to refuse God's law.  
God gives joy and inheritance so that we will _______ His law.  
We need to pray that God would teach us His law.

Psalm 78:10  
Psalm 105:43-45  
Psalm 119:29

12 **There is only one Lawgiver and Judge.**  
When it comes to lawgivers and judges, the Lord God is in a select company of _____.

If there is only one bald eagle in the world, we say that creature is endangered.

There is only One Lawgiver and Judge. But God is ______ endangered. Rather, *He endangers*. The One Lawgiver and Judge endangers all who do not call upon Him, and follow His Son.

There are _____ senators in each of the fifty states. There are _____ judges on the U. S. Supreme Court.

Whether they know it or not, whether they agree or not, that fact is, "there is only One Lawgiver and Judge."

Psalm 50:4  
Psalm 58:11  
Psalm 94:2  
Psalm 96:13  
Psalm 98:9

And, unlike earthly legislators and judges, ________ God, the Lawgiver and Judge is:

the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

13 **Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”**

James was not condemning the starting of businesses, nor industriousness, nor earning _________.

14 **Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.**  
We may *think* we ________ what will happen tomorrow, but all we really have are plans and ideas.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.  
Psalm 90

15 **Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”**

He is __________ against a view of "tomorrow"—a view of Monday morning—that has a godless, prideful, willfulness about it that is not the Lord's will. James is condemning a modern-day reenactment of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9).

16 **As it is, you boast**  
in your arrogant schemes.

Ps 44:8  
Prov 27:1  
1 Cor 1:31  
Jer 9:23-24

Ps 21:11  
Ps 119:150  
Rom 1:18-32

All such boasting is evil.  **If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.**