

PRESSURE POINTS: Humility Involving People & Plans

Andy Deane · 10/20/2024 · James 4:11-17

James 4:11-12, 11 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?

Humility Trusts God Alone to Judge People

- Slander violates God's command
 - There are times to use godly discernment about other's sin:
 - When someone has sinned against you: [Matthew 18:15-17](#)
 - Restoring one caught in sin: [Galatians 6:1](#)
 - When the sin is ongoing & public: [1 Corinthians 5:12-13](#)
 - When using discernment about false teaching: [Matthew 7:15-16](#)
 - Obvious reasons slander is wrong — that James skips:
 - It's you disagreeing with God: [Genesis 1:27](#)
 - You'll lose good Christian friends: [Proverbs 20:19](#)
 - You aim righteous prayers against you: [Psalm 54:5](#)
 - God hates it when you do that: [Proverbs 6:16-19](#)
 - You'll answer to God about it in person: [Matthew 12:36](#)
- Slander shows we reject God's law.
 - Why? We fail to keep the "love your neighbor" law when we slander and that implies a denial of the law's authority over us because we're judging the law as not necessary to keep!
- Slander assumes we're the true judge, but we're not.
- If your guilty of slander, repentance is available: [Matthew 12:31](#) & [Matthew 5:23-24](#)
- When slandered, humility lets God be your defender: [Proverbs 20:22](#) & [Psalm 18:2; 46:10](#)

James 4:13-17, 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." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. 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.

Humility Trust's Our Plans to God's Providence

- Pride believes we control every detail of life: timing, travel, difficulty, work, & success.
- The truth is, we control far less than we think:
 - [Proverbs 16:9](#) & [Psalm 90:12](#)
 - We advocate planning but we practice humility.
- Humility accepts God's right to override our plans.
 - We show that with the vocabulary of "If it is the Lord's will".
 - We show that with the reaction we have to change — contentment.
 - When God changes our plan, we should: (1) surrender in prayer, (2) acknowledge God's wisdom & character, (3) remember His past faithfulness, (4) seek contentment in the new normal, & (5) embrace God's redirection.
- Thinking you're the exception isn't just wrong—it's sin.
- Uncertainty doesn't have to lead to fear or paralysis of analysis.

Is there a good thing God called you to do that has been left undone? Plug into each part of: Discipleship Pathway.