

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon notes for July 15-16, 2000**

**"Watch What You Say"**

**Dale Whitehead**

**James 4:11-12**

We are commanded not to use destructive words.

The word translated "speak against" (KATALAEITE) literally means to "speak down on." Therefore the command to "speak against one another" forbids any speech which runs down another person."

If we are going to keep from running people down in our conversations we must be committed to building people up in our conversations (Ephesians 4:29).

If we are ever going to get this speech area right it is very important that we not only get it right with our friends and family outside of the church but more importantly we need to get it right with our brothers and sisters in Christ (John 13:34,35; James 4:11).

Using destructive words is prideful.

Using destructive words is a self-elevation above the law (James 4:11).

The Greek in verse 11 does not have a definite article before the word "law" which most likely keeps the thought purely qualitative. The reference therefore is not likely to the Mosaic Law but rather to the law governing the Christian life "the royal law," which is the law of Christian love (James 2:8).

Their failure to keep the royal law, the law of love, in respect to their speech amounts to judging it, in that he has judged it to be invalid and unnecessary.

James is not saying that Christians are never to make judgments about Christian brothers. What the scriptures forbid is judgmentalism, a critical and censorious spirit that judges everyone and everything, seeking to run others down rather than building them up (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).

The instruction to "not judge lest you be judged" is directed to people who are overlooking the logs in their own eyes while they judge others. But if they are careful and deal with their own personal sins before attempting to lovingly deal with the sins of this brother then the passage goes on to say that they will see clearly so that they can remove the speck in their brother's eye (Matthew 7:1-5).

Self elevation above God (James 4:12)

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

There is only one lawgiver and judge because there is only one who is able to save and to destroy and that is God.

Sometimes when men get a little caught up in themselves the Lord has to remind them of their limitations (Job 40:7-14).

For us to judge one of God's creatures is to usurp a right that only God has. Thus judgmentalism is not only arrogant but blasphemous! This alone ought to seal our judgmental, demeaning lips for eternity.