

“DON’T JUDGE ONE ANOTHER”

Authentic Relationships #4

James 4:11-12 - May 2, 2021

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. Romans 14:13

Judgment = Criticism that lacks loving concern for the other person.

The Damaging Impact of Critical Judgment—

1. **Critical words destroy _____.** *A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends. Proverbs 16:28*
2. **A critical spirit divides _____.** *With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape. Proverbs 17:9*
3. **Critical words can create _____.** *Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one’s heart. Proverbs 18:8*

Taking a Stand Against a Judgmental Heart/Words:

1. **Do a careful, self-evaluation of your _____ and the impact of your _____.** *You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. Matthew 7:5*
2. **Never give into the temptation to _____ in _____.** *Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back. Proverbs 29:11*
3. **Choose to _____ before you _____.** *Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. James 1:19-20*
4. **Ask those you have _____ to _____ you.** *Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5*
5. **Remember to speak the truth _____.** *Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. Ephesians 4:15*
6. **Remember the Lord _____ our _____ others.** *⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! James 5:7-9*

THE JOURNEY DEVOTIONAL
May 2nd, 2021 Week
Discussion Questions from the Sermon

1. What was something you read in the weekly Scripture readings or heard in the sermon that made an impact on you? Explain.
2. In the sermon we talked about the impact of a critical heart and spirit on relationships. What, specifically, did we mention? What have you specifically experienced?
3. Read James 4:11-12. What commands does James give? What does he say is the reason we should not judge others?
4. Read Matthew 7:1-5. What does Jesus say about judging others?
5. In the sermon we talked about steps to taking a stand against a judgmental heart and/or words. Which of these steps particularly spoke to you? Why? What might you add to this list?
6. What is one specific way you can apply the biblical readings and/or the sermon in your life this week? That is, what will you do and when will you do it?

Weekly Bible Memory Verse: *Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!* James 5:9

Bible Readings: Reading these passages of Scripture will help you become like Jesus in how you think and what you do, in addition to preparing you for next week's sermon. Remember to read these passages slowly, allowing the Lord to speak to your heart and mind:

Monday – Matthew 6:5-14

Tuesday – Colossians 3:1-17

Wednesday – 1 Corinthians 13

Thursday – Mark 11:12-26

Friday – Psalm 32

Saturday – Psalm 51

Sunday – Ephesians 4:17-32