

NOTE - This does not mean we should fail to use good judgment.

“Judge not, that you be not judged. Matthew 7:1 (ESV)

“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you. Matthew 7:6 (ESV)

Matthew 7:15-20

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.” John 7:24 (ESV)

How to overcome a slandering tongue and a grumbling heart.

Ask, what is my motive in speaking?

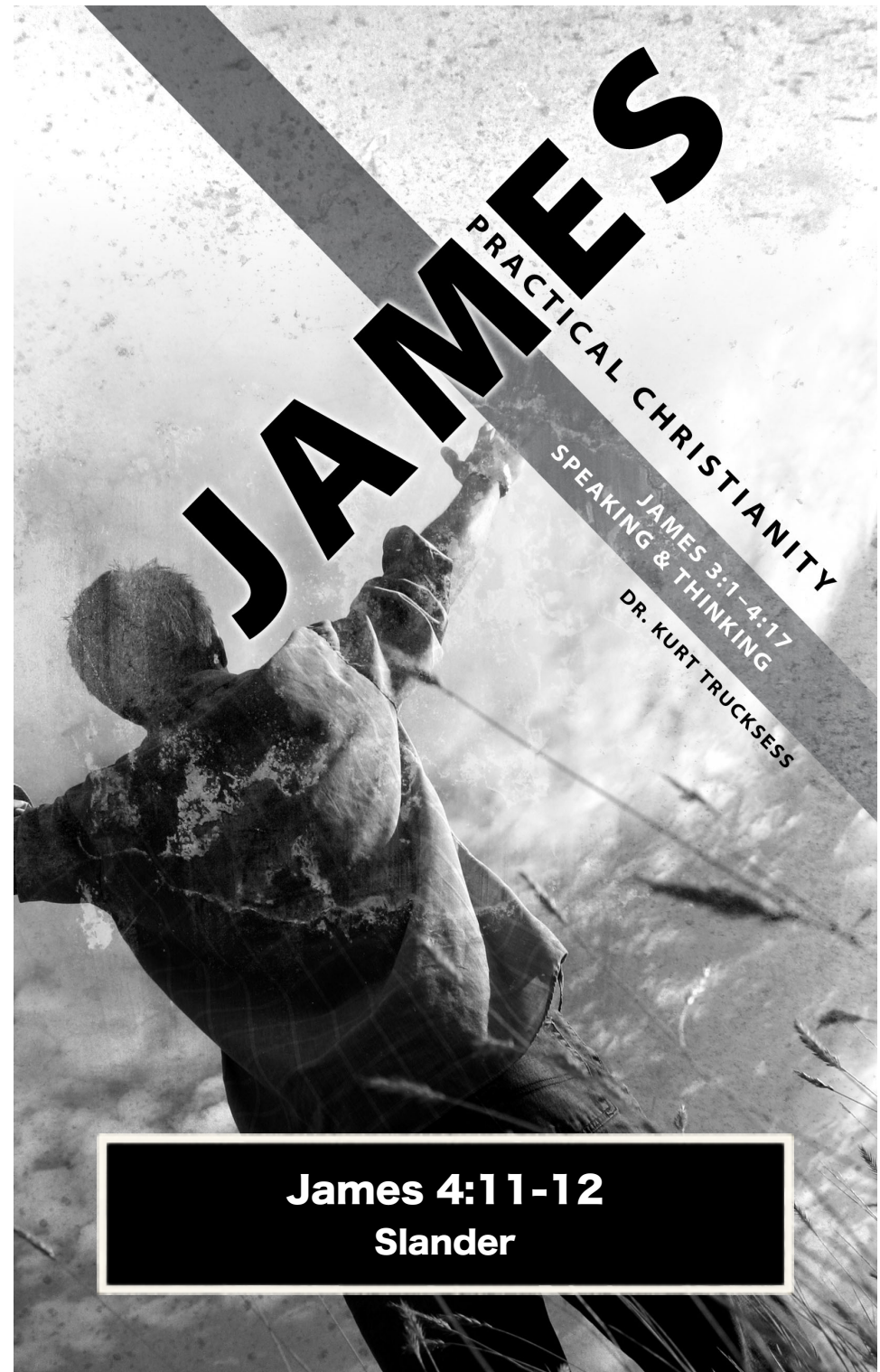
Don’t talk about people but to people.

Let God render the final verdict.

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. 1 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV)

Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscripts, audio and video are available at www.christ2Rculture.com. You can also find sermon video and audio on iTunes by searching for “Kurt Trucksess”

Next Week: James 4:13-17 - [God of my iPhone](#)
Two Weeks: James 4:17-5:6 - [What Rich People Need to Hear](#)



Faith Church - EFCA

September 18, 2011

James 4:11-12 - Slander



- Be quick to listen, slow to speak (1:19)
- Keep a tight reign on your tongue (1:26)
- Our tongues reveal sinful discrimination (2:3-4)
- We all stumble in what we say (3:2)
- Our words are powerful and damaging (3:3-5)
- What we say reveals our spiritual condition (3:6-8)

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?... Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
James 4:11-12; 5:9 (ESV)

The Command - Don't slander/grumble against one another.

Slander - speak against; to speak evil of or talk down to someone.

The Greek word for slander has nothing to do with the truth of what is being said.

A defamatory word may be perfectly true: we do not have to tell lies in order to defame. But the fact that it is true gives us no right to say it. (Motyer, James, pg. 157)

Grumble - groan, sigh or complain to yourself about others.

Grumbling is when we speak against someone to ourselves; slander is when we speak against someone to others.

What is the problem with slander and grumbling?

Slander comes from an inflated ego.

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. James 4:11 (ESV)

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:16 (ESV)

The crime of slander is a higher crime than anything which tears others down that I needlessly repeat.

Slander demeans someone made in God's image.

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. James 3:9 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. Exodus 21:22-25 (ESV)

Slander is acting as the judge over your neighbor.

There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? James 4:12 (ESV)