

Sunday AM - Session 2 – 6/17/2012
"When Judging is Wrong" - James 4:11

James 4:11

(a) "*Speak not evil, one of another brothers.* (b) *The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law.* (c) *If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.*"

Exegetical Review:

We've already emphasized the exegesis of the (a) part of the verse: KATALALEO means "down speaking", or talking down other believers. The negative ME is not a strong negative adverb, meaning this command requires us to *choose* to STOP (Present active, continuous action, needs to be stopped) slandering and backbiting other believers.

(b) part: KATALAELON – The ON ending means this is a present active participle of KATALALEO

When we are guilty of putting others down, we are trying to build ourselves up. The Lord is telling us in this verse to STOP that!

(c) part: NOMA = Law

When Judging is Wrong:

1. When it is out of jealousy, bitterness, or selfish ambition
2. When you assume you know all the facts
3. When you set up human standards, rather than God's standards to judge and discern
4. If we do not judge ourselves *first*
5. When you share confidential or personal information with the wrong intent.
6. When you malign someone over a minor or insignificant issue, often turning it into a mountain of false issues.
7. When you make an authoritative pronouncement about someone's eternal destiny. God, *and God alone*, knows the heart of each individual.

When you make an authoritative pronouncement about someone's eternal destiny, you assume the authority of God, and his Omniscience.

What is ASEITY? It means *God is self-existent*, and has always been. God does not come in or go out of existence, continuing forever unchanged; it is His eternal nature. *God is self-appointed* (Gen. 1:1; Ps 90:2; John 1:1-3; John 8:58; Ex. 3:14; Acts 17:25; Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; 2:10; Rev. 1:8; 4:11).

We have a great, infinitely powerful, immutable God, an infinite Being, infinitely perfect, thus unable to change (Mal 3:6, James 1:17). God is absolute stability (Ish. 40:28), absolutely immutable (Psalm 119:89) and so is His Word (Eccl 3:14, Ish 40:8)! The Word of God stands, and never fades like the grass.

From God's immutability comes his Faithfulness (Psalm 36:5; 89:33; 119:90)
God manifests no increase or decrease of attributes or power. His Wisdom and discretion are unchangeable.

We are one breath, one heartbeat from eternity. The scripture says *"It is of the Lord's Mercies we are not consumed, because His compassion fails not."*

God is Faithful:

1. He's faithful to save those who would believe.
2. He's faithful – to keep the saved – saved.
3. He's faithful to keep His promises.
4. He's faithful when temptations come our way.
5. He's faithful to forgive us when we sin (1 John 1:9).
6. He's faithful in answering our prayers.

... In the beginning [which is *not* a beginning]... GOD.

He knows us by name, and He knows more about us than we know about ourselves. Therefore, we are to trust him, not to be distracted by the insignificant.