

Only One Judge

James 4:11-12 (NASB)

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*.

12 There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

James 4:11-12 (NLT)

11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

12 God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

Questions to Ponder and Discuss

1. James 4:11-12 contain three statements, one question and one command. Find each. How does judging others make you a judge of the law and not a doer of the law?
2. What does it mean to speak against one another? Give some examples. What are some other Scriptures that talk about this?
3. How does the nature and character of God as "judge" help us repent of speaking evil?
4. What is the difference between the kind of speaking against/judging described here and proper correction? What do you think a person's motivation might be in each situation?
5. Ask yourself this: Do I think I am better than others? Do I come off as proud or condescending to others? Who are you most prone to criticize or slander?