

Stop the Slander

July 10, 2022 | Deep End Faith | James 4:11-12 | Pastor Lonnie Harris

What We Must Stop

- You must stop _____ fellow believers (4:11a)

Why We Must Stop

- Because to Slander fellow believers is to sinfully slander & _____ (4:11b)
- Because to Slander fellow believers is to arrogantly _____ yourself from keeping the law (4:11c)
- Because to Slander fellow believers is to unwittingly assume a role that _____ to God (4:12)

What We Must Do Instead

- Remember, God opposes the proud but shows grace to the humble, so humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up. (4:6-10)
- THINK before you speak – Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment (2:12-13)
- Use Your tongue to build up and bless & not to tear down & devour each other (Gal 5:14-15)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did you take away from today's message?
- Read the passage in 3 or 4 different translations & highlight any differences. What questions do these differences raise with regard to the original text?
- Read verses 4:11-12 & pick out what you think are key words and why.
- Why might someone choose the following as Key Words:
 - "Don't," "Do Not," or "Stop,"
 - "Slander" or "Speak Against"
 - "One Another," or "Brothers & Sisters"
 - "Law"
 - "Judge"
 - "Neighbor"
- Spend some time using your words to bless one another right now. How do you see God working in each other's lives? What do you appreciate about someone else?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read the following Scriptures & think about how they inform or reinforce your understanding of James 4:11-12:

- James 2:12-13
- Gal 5:13-15
- Romans 13:8-10
- Eph 4:29-32
- Psalm 140:11
- Psalm 101:5
- Numbers 12

Read "5 Ways to Bless Others With Your Words at Work"

<https://www.theologyofwork.org/resources/5-ways-to-bless-others-with-your-words-at-work>

Listen to "May The Words of My Mouth" by Tim Hughes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6EkmvRxfHo>