

James 4:11-12

1. A change of subject after the ten imperatives for repentance and humbling oneself, but still in line with the opening verses of chapter 3 (3:2-2) concerning the ethics of speech.
 - a. Also parallel to 2:1-13
2. These two verses flow like this:
 - a. The prohibition:
“Do not speak evil against one another.”
 - b. Explanation of the stated prohibition:
”Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law.”
 - c. Repeat with clarification the explanation of the prohibition:
“If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”
 - d. Reasoning for the prohibition, the foundational principle of these verses:
“There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy.”
 - e. Rhetorical concluding question:
“So who, then, are YOU?...you who judges your neighbor?”

James 4:11 – **“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.”**

3361 [e]	2635 [e]	240 [e]	80 [e]	3588 [e]	2635 [e]	80 [e]	2228 [e]	2919 [e]	3588 [e]	80 [e]	846 [e]	2635 [e]
Me	katalaleite	allélon	adelphoi	ho	katalalón	adelphou	e	krinón	ton	adelphon	autou	katalalei
11	Μή	καταλαλεῖτε	ἀλλήλων	, ἀδελφοί .	ὁ	καταλαλῶν	ἀδελφοῦ	ἢ	κρίνων	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	αὐτοῦ , καταλαλεῖ
	Not	Speak against	one another	brothers	The [one]	speaking against	[his] brother	or	judging	the	brother	of him speaks against
	Adv	V-PMA-2P	RecPro-GMP	N-VMP	Art-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	N-GMS	Conj	V-PPA-NMS	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Pro-GM3S V-PIA-3S

3551 [e]	2532 [e]	2919 [e]	3551 [e]	1487 [e]	1161 [e]	3551 [e]	2919 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	4163 [e]	3551 [e]	235 [e]	2923 [e]
nomou	kai	krinei	nomon	ei	de	nomon	krineis	ouk	ei	poiētēs	nomou	alla	kritēs
νόμου	καὶ	κρίνει	νόμον .	εἰ	δὲ	νόμον	κρίνεις ,	οὐκ	εἶ	ποιητῆς	νόμου ,	ἀλλὰ	κριτῆς .
[the] Law	and	judges	[the] Law	If	however	[the] Law	you judge	not	you are	a doer	of [the] Law	but	a judge
N-GMS	Conj	V-PIA-3S	N-AMS	Conj	Conj	N-AMS	V-PIA-2S	Adv	V-PIA-2S	N-NMS	N-GMS	Conj	N-NMS

1. Notice the shift back to “brothers” and away from “you adulteresses” and “you sinners”
2. “speak against” or “slander” comes from *katalaleite* which is a form of the verb *katalaleo* /kat-al-al-eh-o/ meaning “to speak evil of” and is translated as “I speak evil of”, “I rail at”, and “I slander”.
 - a. This verb is used 3x in 4:11
 - b. This verb is used by Paul:
 - i. Romans 1:30
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 12:20
 - c. By Peter in:
 - i. 1 Peter 2:1
 - ii. 1 Peter 2:12
 - iii. 1 Peter 3:16
 - d. Mariah and Aaron did this to Moses in Numbers 12:1-8
 - e. The wilderness generation did this to God in Psalm 78:19
 - f. Also Psalm 50:20

3. “judging” or “judges” is from *krinon* and *kpinei* which is a verb meaning “to judge” or “to decide”
 - a. This verb is also used 3x in 4:11 and 1x in 4:12
4. “a judge” from *krites* meaning “a judge” and is translated as “a judge”, “a magistrate” or “a ruler”
5. “a doer” from *poietes* meaning “a maker” or “a doer” and is translated as to describe a maker of poetry such as “a poet” and as “a performer”, “a doer” or as a person who “carries out” a task.
6. “

4:12 – “There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”

1520 [e]	1510 [e]	3588 [e]	3550 [e]	2532 [e]	2923 [e]	3588 [e]	1410 [e]	4982 [e]	2532 [e]	622 [e]	4771 [e]	1161 [e]	5101 [e]	1510 [e]			
heis	estin	ho	nomothetēs	kai	kritēs	ho	dynamenos	sōsai	kai	apolesai	sy	de	tis	ei			
12	εἷς	ἔστιν	[ὁ]	νομοθέτης	καὶ	κριτής	, ὁ	δυναμένο	σῶσαι	καὶ	ἀπολέσαι	·	σύ	δὲ	,	τίς	εἶ
	One	there is	-	Lawgiver	and	Judge	the [One]	being able	to save	and	to destroy		You	however	who	are	
	Adj-NMS	V-PIA-3S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	Conj	N-NMS	Art-NMS	V-PPMP-NMS	V-ANA	Conj	V-ANA		PPro-N2S	Conj	IPro-NMS	V-PIA-2S	

3588 [e]	2919 [e]	3588 [e]	4139 [e]
ho	krinōn	ton	plēsion
ὁ	κρίνων	τὸν	πλησίον ?
-	judging	the	neighbor
Art-VMS	V-PPA-VMS	Art-AMS	Adv

1. “lawgiver” from *nomothetes* meaning “a lawgiver” or “a legislator”
2. To judge another is to set yourself in the place of the Law, the Word and the Lord.
3. Matthew 13:24-30 and 13:36-43 The parable of the wheat and weeds show a desire to uproot the weeds, but Jesus calls for patient coexistence
4. Matthew 7:1-5
5. Luke 6:37
6. Romans 2:1
7. Judging and discerning:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:15
 - b. 1 Corinthians 11:31
 - c. 1 Timothy 3
 - d. James 5:20
 - e. 1 Timothy 5:20
 - f. Galatians 6:1
 - g. 2 Timothy 4:2
 - h. Ephesians 5:11
8. In 1 Corinthians Paul describes four types of people:
 - a. Natural man (2:14)
 - b. Spiritual man (2:15)
 - c. Infants in Christ (3:1)
 - d. Fleshly man (3:3)