

Slandering A Brother

Text : **James 4: 11-12 ; Prov. 18: 1-10**

S#1.
S#2.

A. What is the most common sin committed by Christians ?

1. There are many common sins.
 - a. Forsaking the assembly ... not spending time with God's family ?
 - b. Not spending time with God ... study, meditation and prayer ?
 - c. Not making an effort to save those we know who are lost ?
2. Actually, we have no way of giving a definitive answer to that.
 - a. One of the most common causes for stumbling is one's self-centeredness.
 - b. Self-centeredness will cause one to focus on the world above God.
 - c. Self-centeredness cause one to feel a sense of competition with others.
3. Consequently, sins of the tongue rank among to most frequently committed.

S#3.

B. Sins of the tongue are mentioned frequently all through the O.T. scriptures.

1. We were given warnings about slander by Moses :
Lev. 19:16 – shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the Lord.
2. We were given warnings about slander by David :
Psa. 15: 1-3 – O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? **2** He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. **3** He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
 S#4.
3. Slander was condemned during the time of the prophets.
 - a. **Jer. 6: 28** – I have made you an assayer *and* a tester among My people, That you may know and assay their way. **28** All of them are stubbornly rebellious, going about as a talebearer. They are bronze and iron; they, all of them, are corrupt.
 S#5.
 - b. **Ezek. 22:9** – Behold, the rulers of Israel, ... Slandering men have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood, and in you they have eaten at the mountain shrines.

C. The sin of slander is frequently condemned in the N.T.

1. **Eph. 4: 29-31** – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
 S#6.

2. **Col. 3: 8-9** – But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, **S#7.**
slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to
 one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

D. The context of James leads directly to our text for this lesson.

1. One's attitude toward his trials demonstrates his attitude toward God.
 - a. God allows Satan to send trials because they make us stronger.
 - b. We should never blame God for the temptations we face.
2. Our religion is not just a system of beliefs, but it is a way of life.
 - a. This way of life is revealed to us when the word is implanted in our hearts.
 - b. The first sign the word has been implanted is its affect on the way we talk.
 - c. The second sign it has been implanted is the desire to help the helpless.
3. When our belief system has become a way of life it changes the way we view others.
 - a. We place equal value on all people .. rich or poor, lowly or great.
 - b. The Royal Law is part of my lifestyle as well as my belief system .. love neighbor.
 - c. Our faith only exists if we live it out in our lives .. "I'll show you my faith by ..."
4. I know the implanted word has produced faith in my heart because ;
 - a. I am gaining ever increasing levels of control over my tongue.
 - b. I no longer use my tongue to start fires or be dashed on the rock.
 - c. Instead I seek the wisdom from above which is peaceable, merciful and good deeds
5. My goals are no longer earthbound and possessions oriented.
 - a. I do not seek the friendship of the world or the things it offers.
 - b. Instead, I resist the devil so that he flees from me.
 - c. Each day I strive to be increasingly submitted to and humbled before God.
6. Even so, in spite of my best effort to the contrary, I still sin.
 - a. However, I no longer seek joy in my sinful pleasures and indulges.
 - b. Rather, it breaks my heart to know I have disappointed God by my sin.
 - c. My failures make me intensely remorseful and determined to do better in future.

E. The closer my relationship with God, the closer I want to draw to His family.

1. Thus, I will never belittle them, speak against them, or disparage them in any way.
2. **James 4: 11** – Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks **S#8.**
 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.

F. We have but four objectives for this lesson; to see that :**S#9.**

1. All evil speaking is wrong. (*This lesson is instructive, not for issue resolution.*)
2. There are many causes of evil speaking.
3. The results of evil speaking are all negative.
4. We must work together to stop evil speaking.

I. All “speaking against” a brother is intolerable in the life of a Christian. .**S#10.****A. The word which is translated as “speaking against” means slander.**

1. **Speaking Against** { *katalaleo* } **1** to speak against one, to criminate, traduce.
2. It is also translated as : “speak evil of” four times, and “speak against” once
3. The root meaning (2637) meaning is “to be a traducer, i.e. to slander.”
4. English words as defined by Noah Webster :
 - a. Traduce : to expose to shame or blame by means of falsehood and misrepresent
 - b. Slander : A false tale or report maliciously uttered. and tending to injure the reputation of another by lessening him in the esteem of his fellow citizens, by exposing him to impeachment and punishment, or by impairing his means of living; defamation
5. This is the antithesis of the “Royal Law.”
Matt. 22: 23 – You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

B. Being “born again” requires that all such evil speech be eliminated.**S#11.**

1. **II Cor. 5: 17 –** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2. One who has received the new birth must eliminate all evil speaking.

C. Christians are commanded to transition out of that former manner of speaking.

1. **Eph. 4: 29-32 –** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only **S#12.** such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
2. Christian maturity / growth is directly linked to one’s removing evil speaking.
I Pet. 2: 1-3 – Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy **S#13.** and envy and all slander, **2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, **3** if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

II. There are many causes for evil speaking. . **S#14.****A. Contrary to the Royal Law, some harbor hatred, resentment and spite. S#15.**

Matt. 22: 23 – You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

B. Some speak evil of others because they are jealous S#16.

1. **Gen. 37** ... The brothers of Joseph
2. **Dan. 6** ... Commissioners in kingdom of King Darius

C. Some people just enjoy stirring up strife. S#17.

1. **Prov. 26: 20** – For lack of wood the fire goes out,
And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.
2. **Titus 3: 10** – Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,

D. Some people flat out talk too much. S#18.

1. **Prov. 10: 19** – When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,
But he who restrains his lips is wise.
2. **Prov. 18: 21** – The tongue can bring death or life,
And those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

E. Character projection

1. Say what they think others must be thinking.
2. Project their own struggles on to others.

III. The results of evil speaking are all negative. . **S#19.****A. Speaking evil and gossip cause contention. S#20.**

1. **Prov. 16: 28** – A perverse man spreads strife,
And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
2. **Prov. 18:2** – A fool does not delight in understanding,
But only in revealing his own mind.

B. Speaking evil and gossiping can destroy trust. S#21.

- a. **Prov. 19: 1** – Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity
Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.
- b. Would you be comfortable confessing your sin to one known to speak evil of others
James 5: 16 – Therefore, confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

C. Speaking evil about someone hurts them. S#22.

1. **Psa. 12: 18** – There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

2. James tells us (3:6) that the tongue is a fire set ablaze by hell.

The fire burns so deep into the hearts of people that some never heal.

D. Speaking evil .. slander .. can ruin the reputation of a person or a church. S#23.

1. **Prov. 20: 19** – He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets,
Therefore do not associate with a gossip.
2. **Prov. 22: 1** – A good name is to be more desired than great wealth,
Favor is better than silver and gold.

S#24.

IV. We must work together to prevent or to stop all evil speaking in the church. S#25.

S#25.

A. Continually pray and monitor ourselves to insure that we do not drift into it.

1. Pray the prayer of David :
Psa. 141: 3 – Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.
2. Learn to be selective about what we say.
Eph. 4: 29 – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. S#26.
3. Make sure that our words project the love of Christ together with our own love.
Eph. 4: 15 – but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

B. Go to offenders and deal with it proactively.

1. **Matt. 18: 15f** ... Go to him alone.
2. **Gal. 6:1** ... God to him in a spirit of love.

C. Forgive the violator and never mention it again.

INVITATION :

S#1. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 4: 11-12**

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?

Proverbs 18: 1-10

1 He who separates himself seeks his own desire,
He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

2 A fool does not delight in understanding,
But only in revealing his own mind.

3 When a wicked man comes, contempt also comes,
And with dishonor comes scorn.

4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;
The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

5 To show partiality to the wicked is not good,
Nor to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.

6 A fool's lips bring strife,
And his mouth calls for blows.

7 A fool's mouth is his ruin,
And his lips are the snare of his soul.

8 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels,
And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

9 He also who is slack in his work
Is brother to him who destroys.

10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe.