

Speaking Evil in the Church

James 4:11-12 Series: Living the Faith

by Philip Pinto, March 21, 2021, @ Village Bible Church

VII. Infighting in the church (4:1-12)

- A. Two questions (v. ¹ *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?*)
- B. The cause of wars and fights (v. 2-3)
- C. Friendship with the world makes people enemies of God (4:4-5)
- D. **The remedy** (4:6-12)
 - 1. Pride has no place (God opposes the proud, v. 6a); humility is key (God gives grace to the humble, v. 6b-8); repentance is the evidence (v. 9-10)
 - 2. Be a _____ rather than _____ of the law (4:11)
 - a. Jesus provided guidance on this (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - b. James compared doers and hearers (Jas. 1:22-25)
 - 1) Jesus' analogy – seeing your brother's speck, missing your own log (Matt. 7:3).
 - 2) James' analogy – looking in the mirror, not doing anything (Jas. 1:24)
 - 3. Who are you to judge your neighbor? (Jas. 4:12b)
 - a. Jesus' instructions (Matt. 18:15-17)
 - 1) **If** you perceive a person has erred, discuss it first with _____ (Mat. 18:15).
 - 2) **If** he refuses to listen, confirm the error by taking one or two _____ to hear it out and try to restore the relationship (Mat. 18:16).
 - 3) **If** he continues to refuse to listen, bring it before the _____ (Mat. 18:17a).
 - 4) *And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a [non-believer, in need of _____].* (Mat. 18:17b)
 - b. The _____ nature of the church's "judgement" (Matt. 18:18-20)

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- B. The cause of wars and fights (v. 2-3)
- C. Friendship with the world makes people enemies of God (4:4-5)
- D. **The remedy** (4:6-12)
 - 1. Pride has no place (God opposes the proud, v. 6a); humility is key (God gives grace to the humble, v. 6b-8); repentance is the evidence (v. 9-10)
 - 2. Be a **doer** rather than **judge** of the law (4:11)
 - a. Jesus provided guidance on this (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - b. James compared doers and hearers (Jas. 1:22-25)
 - 1) Jesus' analogy – seeing your brother's speck, missing your own log (Matt. 7:3).
 - 2) James' analogy – looking in the mirror, not doing anything (Jas. 1:24)
 - 3. Who are you to judge your neighbor? (Jas. 4:12b)
 - a. Jesus' instructions (Matt. 18:15-17)
 - 1) **If** you perceive a person has erred, discuss it first with **that person** (Mat. 18:15).
 - 2) **If** he refuses to listen, confirm the error by taking one or two **witnesses** to hear it out and try to restore the relationship (Mat. 18:16).
 - 3) **If** he continues to refuse to listen, bring it before the **church body** (Mat. 18:17a).
 - 4) *And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a [non-believer, in need of **salvation**].* (Mat. 18:17b)
 - b. The **binding** nature of the church's "judgement" (Matt. 18:18-20)