

**James 4:11 to 5:6**  
**Judging one another and the  
misuse of riches**

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**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?

1. What does it mean to speak against one another?
1. The law requires that people love their brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. To speak evil against them violates the kingdom command to love.

## James 2:8

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

Christians are to love, support and protect each other.

**1. What does it mean to speak against one another?**

## **Slander**

**A. The utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another's reputation.**

**B. A false and defamatory oral statement about a person.**

## **Webster Dictionary**

1. What does it mean to speak against one another?

**Worldly speech does the following:**

I. It discourages one another.

II. It dishonors God.

III. It can cause a brother or sister to lose their soul.

# 1. What does it mean to speak against one another?

## Pro. 6:16-19

**16** There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

**17** Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

**18** A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

**19** A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

# 1. What does it mean to speak against one another?

Matt.7:1-6

1 “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.”

2 “For in the way you judge, **you will be judged**; and by your standard of measure, **it will be measured to you.**”

3 “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

4 “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?”

5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then **you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.**”

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. 8



1. What does it mean to speak against one another?

**Matt. 18:5-6**

5 “And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

1. What does it mean to speak against one another?
3. Those who judge others adopt a role that belongs to God alone.

### Heb. 12:22-24

**22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

**23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect,

**24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

2. How does James describe the attitude Christians should have in verses 13 to 15?

## James 4:13-15

**13** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

**14** Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

**15** Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

**2. How does James describe the attitude Christians should have in verses 13 to 15?**

1. Forgetting God in business is another manifestation of worldliness. The merchants addressed here were probably Jews who carried on a lucrative trade throughout the world.
2. Our life is short, and it can disappear at any moment.
3. “If the LORD wills” is a reflection of a heart attitude of total dependence on God’s will.

### 3. Why is boasting in your arrogance evil?

**James 4:16-17**

**16** But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

**17** Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

### 3. Why is boasting in your arrogance evil?

**Boasting:** self-indulgence is reflected in boasting, bragging, and arrogance.

A. We boast by flaunting our abilities and successes through our position at our jobs, our possessions and activities such as expensive houses, clothes and cars, friendships and recreation.

B. A Christian is to walk in fellowship with God day by day and moment by moment, acknowledging God in all his ways.

C. A Christian is to commit his life in all his ways to the Lord.

D. Refusing to do so is sin, and the wages of sin is death, a spiritual and eternal death.

# Faith that perseveres:

1. Is humble before God.
2. Is obedient to the will of God.
3. Is confident in the justice of God.
  - a. He is coming to judge the sinful.
  - b. He is coming to deliver the faithful.

4. In what way will the rusting or decaying of riches be a witness against the rich person?

## James 5:1-3

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!



4. In what way will the rusting or decaying of riches be a witness against the rich person?

A. The desire for more money can lead one to all kinds of sins, including exploiting one's employees and living a life of luxury.

B. James describes the rich as greedy and selfish, loving their money and mistreating others.

4. In what way will the rusting or decaying of riches be a witness against the rich person?

1. The rich who lust for money are going to face God's judgment in the form of "miseries."

2. Money is temporary and is not lasting. There are no earthly materials or riches that will not fade away eventually.

3. Everything you see is temporary. It cannot be taken with you into heaven.

**4. In what way will the rusting or decaying of riches be a witness against the rich person?**

4. James is reminding Christians that the justice of God is coming. He is coming to judge all men.

5. The rich are going to be judged for hoarding wealth.

6. Their hoarded resources will testify against them.

7. Their treasures on earth will bring about their torment in eternity.

8. These individuals will be judged for living in self-indulgence.

## 5. How should employers treat their employees?

James 5:4-6

4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

## 5. How should employers treat their employees?

### Employers should:

1. Not cheat, steal or defraud their workers.
2. Pay them a just wage for their work.
3. Not withhold their pay.
4. Treat them with respect and dignity.

# James 5: 1-6

1. The person who lies in order to get wealth is a person seeking death.

**Pro. 21:6**

6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.

2. The person who steals to get riches will be judged for his actions. He will prove himself to be a fool.

**Jer. 17:11**

11 “As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid,

So is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly;

In the midst of his days it will forsake him,

And in the end he will be a fool.”

# James 5: 1-6

3. The person who **oppresses** the worker shall face the judgment of God.

**Mal. 3:5**

**5** “Then **I will draw near to you for judgment;** and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and **against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages,** the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts.

# James 5: 1-6

Verse 1 mentions “miseries that are coming,”

Verse 3 refers to the “last days,”

Verse 5 alludes to a “day of slaughter.”

Verse 7 “be patient until the Lord’s coming”

Verse 8 he says that “the Lord’s coming is near”

Verse 9 we learn that the “judge stands at the door!”

**Jesus is coming back and is going to judge everyone.**