

“How Dare We!”
The Strong Temptation to Spiritual Audacity
James 4:11-17
Discussion Questions

Note: *To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.*

1. Someone read **James 4:11-12**.

- * What is the definition & your understanding of the word “slander?”
- * Read & relate some other scriptures on slander i.e. **Leviticus 19:15-18; Psalm 101:5; Matthew 7:1-3; Romans 14:12.**
- * Share an example you’ve experienced or heard about.
- * Why do so many Christians do it? How does it affect the church?

2. James 4:11-12 suggests 3 things we do when sitting in judgment against someone.

- * In what ways do we elevate ourselves over *others*?
- * In what ways do we elevate ourselves over the *law*?
- * In what ways do we elevate ourselves over *God*?

3. There are some better, more biblical ways of handling our concerns or criticisms of others within the church.

- * Read & relate other scriptures i.e. **Matt 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-3; Phil 2:3-4;** others?
- * Can you think of an instance where these principles were practiced? Results?

4. Someone read **James 4:13-16**

- * Compare these verses with passages like **Prov 16:9, 19:21, 21:5; Luke 14:28-30; Acts 16:6-10.**
- * What are some differences between presumption and planning?
- * Share some examples of plans laid & changed from your life.
- * Recall & relate the acronyms **DV** (Deo Velente “If God wills”) and **EGO** (Edging God Out).

5. Someone read **James 4:17**.

- * What are some good things (spiritual disciplines & ministry opportunities) which we have a tendency to postpone or neglect as Christ-followers?
- * Can you think of one or two which we should immediately practice, especially at this pivotal time in Bethel’s life?