

Sunday, August 17, 2025
JAMES: Why Is The Sin of Slander So Serious
James 4:11-12

Scripture passage: Ephesians 1:15-23

"You 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. ¹⁷ 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord."

Leviticus 19:16-18

1. Because _____ is the root.

'speak against'- critical speech about others; to talk another down, usually behind the individual's back, unhelpful repeating of stories about the wrongs and offences of others, talking about someone in a way that is unkind, unhelpful, or untrue; to slander, to defame.

*"Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure."*

Psalm 101:5

2. Because it is a _____ against the family.

3. Because it puts us in a place of _____ Scripture.

4. Because it reveals we are trying to sit in _____ place as Judge.

5. Because it is antithetical to the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Living:

- **Our passage does not mean we do not deal with sin in the church.**
- **Think carefully before we speak.**

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment."
Matthew 12:36

- **When we sin in this area, walk in the Gospel – Jesus' victory, repent, and believe.**
- **Make it right with brothers and sisters we have spoken against.**

"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."

Ephesians 4:29

- **Refuse to listen to slander.**