

# James 4:11-17

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# Where are we

- Next week James 5:1-6
- James is a wisdom-like letter of pastoral care
- Last week
  - They weren't simply loving and trusting Christ
  - They had other things they effectively desired more than Christ
  - This manifested itself in strife

# This week

- In hindsight, I might not have cut up the lessons this way
  - First part is about judging and looks back to the last lesson
  - Second part thinks about gaining wealth and looks forward to the next

# This is a wisdom book

- There are statements here that aren't trying to say everything one could say about a subject
- There is a right speaking up about things
  - 2:20, 5:1, 5:19
- There is a right kind of “judging” Math 7:1, Math 7:15 Sinclair Ferguson We don't judge to condemn; we judge and exercise discernment
- So here we are focusing on what that bad judging looks like

# What is here v.11-12

- In what sense is speaking against a brother, or judging a brother judging the law?
- I've got my answer on the next slide. I want to hear what other people have to say

# What is here v.11-12

- In what sense is speaking against a brother, or judging a brother judging the law?
- I think when we do this we aren't thinking about God's law we are thinking about our law

The context: conflict flowing from loving something more than Christ. My law lets me rule.

- Check your motivation

# What does bad judging look like

- What does this look like Math 7:1 Judge others the way you want them to judge you
- Rom 14: 4, 10-12
  - Judging as in condemnation is to put ourselves in the place of God
  - This appears to be judging on the basis of judgement calls
- Romans 2

# Comments?

- What does bad judging look like?
- How do we detect it in ourselves?
- Do you have wisdom principles to help see where we are falling into this
  - There is no checklist. We trust God, not our checklist
  - Getting away from Bad judging is what other people do. Good judging is what I do.



# V. 13-17

- This is a wisdom passage
- Proverbs 6:6-11
  - It is appropriate to be diligent and use foresight
- Proverbs 20:18
  - It is appropriate to talk about plans

# From last week

- James 4:4-6
- If we do not have our affections and trust set on Christ then we are pulled aside and we yield to our desires.
- This causes sin, such as speaking sinfully

# What is warned about

- Boasting
  - This is what they are glorying in
  - This is what they are confident in
- The answer
  - 14, 15 see what you have as a dependent on God
  - If you see it this way you will see it as a gift
  - If you glory in God and are confident in Him, you can have a right attitude

# Applications

- How do we fall into this?
- How can we stay out of it?

# Compare Luke 12: 13-34

- The issue: Greed v. 15
  - We are trusting and glorying in our possessions not in Christ
- What was he saying ( our passage is about what we say) 17-19
  - What was he trusting in
  - What was he glorying in

# Continued

- So if the problem with our words is a manifestation of not loving and trusting Christ, what is the solution?
- If you trust in money you glory when you have a lot and you fear when you don't or may not
  - Don't worry v. 22 why?
  - Illustrations from the passage? 30
  - Another illustration v. Fruit of trusting God: Generosity v33

# Some guard rails

- This is not health and wealth, this is food and covering
- Is this an absolute promise? Ultimately fulfilled in Heaven
  - 2 Cor 8:7-15 esp 13-15

# My Fear

- This was a lesson by one of the 10%-20% to other members of that group
- The lesson to the 1% comes next week
- I worry about how I will handle unlikely but possible events. Other people worry about how they we handle next week
  - What would you say to them?



# Comments?

- Any thoughts?