

Stop Playing God

James 4:11-12

Purpose of series: The purpose of this series is to assist you in taking off the limits of God's expression through you and in your life and His blessing on your life. The book of James reveals many practical duties and activities of Christian, that if not heeded will hinder God's expression through them and blessings on them, especially during difficult seasons of our life. This series will provide us with a practical view of how to live a life of spiritual impact and personal fullness in a difficult world under pressure.

Purpose of this message: Statements that we make are often a revealing of our own heart. Last week I talked about how our struggles with one another came from things that lie deep within our own heart. Now James takes a step up and reveals that our hurtful, painful statements have a greater problem than we realize at first, when we make casual, judgmental comments, we are actually attempting to take the place of God. To consider that our words were an accident, something that just came out, we had better review what God's Word has to say about it and how God sees it. He does not take our slander lightly, not only on the issues that we could prove as wrong, but also our comments on things that are true. Your quick witted, thought through comments are not just passing comments. They are offensive to God and we must take them serious, why? Because God does!

Big Brother, Bad Word

I remember that it was about this time of year and I was about twelve years old. My older brother had learned a new word. For a few days my brother had used it to express his disappointment when things didn't go his way. It was one of those words that was new, not one of the old ones that had been around for a long time. For instance, today you can say "bad," and that means "good." Well this was a word that was bad, and it was not good!

Anyways, I had been warning my brother, "I don't think you should say that, I think it's bad." "Oh shut up, you don't know what you're saying, there's nothing wrong with it." Finally Sunday came. All the youth played football with a few older guys in the church every Sunday afternoon. Everyone was coming out of church and my brother and myself were standing out in the parking lot at the car. The guy who always headed up the game walked out of the doors...behind everybody else in the church. My brother yelled from the parking lot, "Are we playing football today?" The young guy he was yelling at responded that we wouldn't. At that moment I knew that my brother was about to let the whole church know he had learned a new word...and he did, at the exact time my parents walked out of those church doors. It was as if the world stood still. My dad's laser beam eyes cut through the whole parking lot. Streetlights burst there bulbs, the ground shook and my dad said, pointing to my brother, "I'll see you at home."

My brother melted into the seat of his car and I silently sat next to him. The atmosphere was like knowing this was the last day of your life. Of course I could not resist the, see I told you so comment to which my brother didn't have the energy to respond to. We didn't say anything else all the way home. Boy did my brother get it. And you know what? I never heard him say that word again.

Behavior Modification

Why I tell you this is because this is one of my clearest memories of *behavior modification* as a kid growing up. See, as a kid I learned that there are just some things that you just don't do or say because of the consequences. It only takes a few of those moments that you realize, I don't think I will say that word...ever! See, over time you pick up keen insight to life and learn things like, "You don't say a new curse word that you just learned in front of the whole church and especially your own parents when they are coming out of church."

You and I have both learned that there are some things that you just don't do because of consequences. In the real world of behavior modification, things will not work out well for you if you ignore the consequences of what you say or what you do. So as a kid you learn what not to say or what to say and then as you grow up as an adult you learn what to say and not say to get a date and keep a relationship, you learn what to say to get a job, you learn what to say to negotiate for a house and you practice this so long correctly things are going well for you. But every once in a while we say something or do something and we say, "Man I don't know where that came from." And we crush a relationship or we lose a job or we get involved in some sort of law suit and we keep telling ourselves, man I'd better not do that again, looking for a means of behavior modification.

We have all developed a filter, to filter our words and our actions in order to make life work. Because, if you don't have a filter, light bulbs will break, the ground will shake and there will be the reality of your transgression expressed by other people every day. If I didn't have a filter growing up I would have been in trouble every day. But we develop this filter for words and actions so that we can navigate our way through life, keeping relationships, making a living and getting along with others. So we learn early on in our life how to monitor our behavior, filter our words and actions and play our part in this life.

But that's not enough, somewhere down the road we do things like I talked about last week, "where do fighting and quarreling come from?" And we found out that it comes from things that lie beneath, and every once in a while the pop out, they get past the filter, they jump out of our mouth before we know it. And now we are left with a problem, the problem of consequences.

Jack Link's Beef Jerky: If you have watched the commercials with the Big Foot in it, they have one and one line of it is stated like this, "**Messin' with Sasquatch is all fun and games until someone gets hurt (and someone always does).**" There are things in us that get out, past the filter, it's all fun and games until someone gets hurt...and someone always does. Why? Because of our tongue.

"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?"

James 4:11-12

Sometimes things get past our filter and whatever you say or what it was you did and you think to yourself and wonder why you did that, that wasn't like me? Or somebody that you know and love says, "Why did you say that or why did you do that, that wasn't like you?" It's as if there was a little hole in your behavior modification filter and you think, "Man, I'd better

not ever do that again or I'd better never say that again.” Trying to put it back in it's place, back in it's cage, out of sight, out of everyone else's radar.

I want us to look at Why we judge other people, Why shouldn't we judge, When is it wrong to judge other people, and How do you break the habit of judging other people. You'll be a lot happier if you learn how to deal with this issue. What I want us to learn today is that the older that we get, it is really not about monitoring our behavior, it is about monitoring something else, something deep inside of us. It is something that no one really has taught us how to monitor. In fact, the area that is neglected is the root of filter failing. We have to learn what God wants to say and do in our lives, and it's found right here in each one of us, it is our heart.

And because we are not monitored correctly, what comes out of our hearts is not correct and it hurts, and it destroys families, and it ruins businesses, and it makes people suspicious, and it causes people to lose their jobs, and it causes people to suffer shame, and it causes deep scares that some never recover from.

Jesus Slandered

Jesus had healed a man in Matthew 12, he was both blind and mute. The excitement of the moment cause people for a moment to wonder, “Is this the Son of David?” In other words, “Is this the guy who was supposed to come and deliver Israel?” Of course you and I both know that it was but immediately the jealous Pharisees had something to say, “The devil made him do it!” Can you imagine that Jesus, not only the powerful man that He was, but God's own son stood there thinking, “If you only knew.” I don't know if there is a louder statement that could be made that could have been so wrong. But Jesus responds after saying a few other things:

“You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Matthew 12:34

As you can read in the New Testament, these Pharisees never had a filter when it came to Christ, they took advantage of their position and they leveraged everything they could against Him to maintain control. And here they call Jesus, “possessed by the devil!” How violated and attacked do you think you would have felt?

Many of us who are older and you who are younger will learn that it's just not enough to monitor your words and it's not enough to monitor your behavior. There is a bigger issue, and it has to do with your heart. We have had a wonderful few months marrying several people to each other. I am so proud of many of you who have taken Holy matrimony very serious, and prayerfully. But one of the greatest fears that I know most couples face, after getting married is, “He/She is not the same person I married.” “When we dated he/she was this and six weeks after we married he/she was this. In one moment they changed. I don't know who this person is. They are a Jeckel and Hyde. They behaved right they said all the right things and then, “boom!” Who is this person?” It's because we learn eventually that monitoring our behavior and our words is not enough. At another place in the book of Luke Jesus is teaching and tells us:

*"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. **For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.**"*

Luke 6:45

James Addresses A Heart Issue

"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?"

James 4:11-12

Slander, which means maligning someone or damaging his reputation by sharing false or deliberately misleading information, is always sin. This evil, talking against others, against their actions, their motives, their manner of living, their families. But the word that James uses has a broader meaning that includes **any form of criticism or running someone down** from selfish motives. In other words, what you are saying may be true, but the reason you're sharing it is to make yourself look good and to put the other person in a bad light.

"So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them, and yet do the same thing, do you think you will escape God's judgment?"

Romans 2:3

Paul is saying that we tend to judge other people and excuse our own failure to filter. We point a finger at somebody else...but we forget one big point, God will stand before you one day and in every place you have judged, He will judge you. We love to accuse others and excuse ourselves. Last week I had mentioned that we actually believe we know about everyone we are talking about and no one knows hardly anything about our situation.

Dealing With Those Who Pass Judgement?

We do this by unrealistically talk about things....about people,

- "I'm not a gossip, I'm just sharing a concern,"
- "I'm not negative, I'm realistic,"
- "I'm not critical, I'm discerning."

Bill Gothard offers some insights on how a slanderer functions and how to respond to someone who shares damaging information about another person:

1. **They ask for your opinion.** Often, the person with an evil report is testing your spirit to see if you are open to slander and bad rumors. He/she may also ask for your opinion of a certain person, make mention of a difficult experience, fill you in on a negative experience with that individual just to see your response.
2. **They ask of your awareness.** He/she may try to get your curiosity up by asking, "Have you heard about so-and-so?"
3. **They ask for your counsel.** He may pose as asking you for counsel on how to deal with a certain individual this person, but with a little discernment you will discover that he/she has no intention of helping the person. Sadly, you may discover that he's

already shared this situation with many others that had no need to know.

This is not going to sound very theological, but you do the same thing with those who slander others as you do with those you pass gas, you don't stay in the other room with them!

Key Questions To Ask A Potential Slanderer

Sometimes you get dumped on before you know it, they share their judgmental information before you get a chance to prepare yourself for it. Here are some questions to ask a person who is slandering:

1. **What is your reason for telling me?** If the only reason I need to know is so that I can pray, I probably don't need to know.
2. **Where did you get your information?** If the person will not reveal his sources, he is probably spreading rumors or unreliable information.
3. **Have you gone to those directly involved to seek to restore them?**
4. **Have you personally checked out all the facts?** If he has not gone directly to those involved and has not checked out the facts, he isn't interested in helping. If he really needs counsel on how to do it, he will not be asking for such help from several sources. I often say, "After you've gone to him, let me know how it went." This holds him accountable.
5. **Can I quote you if I check this out?** If someone is spreading judgmental falsehoods or half-truths, he won't want to be quoted! Also I have found out that some people don't want to provide the appropriate information to resolve conflict because it will expose things no one knows about them as well. Many times their accusations are just a cover up of their own wrong doings.

Be Careful To Not Confuse Opportunity With Calling

It is flattering to be sought out for counsel and advise, and it is a role that should humbly be submitted to God and His Word. But you must understand that there is a difference in being the substitute for resolve. But putting yourself in the position as a listener you might be in the position of judge, which leads to conflict, broken relationships and the judgment of God. You must be careful that people don't put you in that role rather than God. You may be enjoying the gathering around you and the conflict resolution, but there is no resolution or resolve and you need to turn for that opportunity because it may not be God appointed and that is a greater judgment. Notice, where is this person submitted? Is there anyone who gives them advice and counsel that is submitted to any kind of leadership or authority? Is this person submitted by their own opinion or does the leadership vouch for them as well. The next time you're tempted to run down someone, remember James' pointed question, "But who are you who judge your neighbor?" Judge yourself instead!

You can go back in our country's beginning history, and in New York, in the very early and founding years, those who slandered or defamed another person were apprehended and the punishment was to pierce through their tongue with a hot iron and then banish them from New York.

- In Psalm 50:19-20; Jeremiah 6:28 and Jeremiah 9:4 this scripture identifies a wicked person as one addicted to slander.

- Proverbs 6:19 says a slanderer sows discord or becomes divisive among brothers
- Proverbs 16:28; 17:9 that slander destroys great friendships
- Proverbs 18:8; 26:22 that slander leaves deep wounds in the soul of the one slandered
- Proverbs 26:20 it always leads to greater conflict.

"Gossip is so tasty. How we love to swallow it."

Proverbs 26:22 (GN)

I love Ice Cream and I don't think anyone makes it better than some of these Kansas women. I could eat it every day. But the Bible says that gossip is just as tasty, it is a favorite among certain people. What I have learned about somebody gossiping is that I've heard far too much before I realize what I have just heard. It gets deep in us and stirs our curiosity. This is the sin, the sin of judging other people. Jesus condemned it more than almost any other sin.

Two Different Kinds of Slander

1. **Slander In The First Degree** – It is out in the open without hiding anything. There is no cover-up involved, it is blatant slander. "Do you know what that guy's doing?" You share it openly -- a statement of judgement on them.
2. **Slander In The Second Degree**- Christians like slander in the second degree -- "I'm sharing this with you so you can pray about it with me." If you're not careful, **a prayer chain can turn into a gossip grapevine** very quickly. When we hear about how other people have fallen, there's something inside, a little bit of pride, the Bible teaches that we often tend to judge other people because it makes us look better...but we are not.

WHY SHOULD I NOT JUDGE OTHERS

James gives us three reasons why we shouldn't judge other people.

1. It's Unchristian

"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it."

James 4:11

"Brother" is used three times in this passage. Why? In the first place we shouldn't judge one another because we're all part of the same family. He wants to stress the need for the relationship among ourselves. See, you will do better with what comes out of your heart when you think properly about each other. When James uses the word "slander," it is absolutely unacceptable. You don't act this way in a real fellowship or in a real family.

Galatians 5:14 says you're to **love your neighbor as yourself...**

"But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you don't be consumed by one another."

Galatians 5:15

James says that the way we play God is by judging other people. Anytime I judge you, anytime you judge me, we're playing God. It's only God's responsibility to judge other

people.

Notice it says, "*Brothers, do not slander...*" Circle "slander". The word "slander" and the word "devil" are the same word. **The word "devil" means slander. The Bible calls Satan the accuser of Christians.**

Loving each other is the Law of God, Jesus said that the whole law hinges on this truth. When we fail to love we violate God's law. When you slander your brother, you slander the law that forbids you to do that. When you condemn your brother, you condemn the law that forbids you to do that. Condemning and slandering the law means you disregard it. You judge it unworthy of your attention.

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."

Colossians 3:8

All six of these primarily attitudes of the heart come out of our mouth in speech. Put all of this away. Why?

"Seeing that you have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Colossians 3:10

In other words, since you're a new creation, you have a new heart, you will have a new speech and make sure that your speech is all that it ought to be.

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Colossians 4:6

Satan is the slanderer of Christians. Slandering is the number one activity that Satan thrives on. It is going around and putting people down. **We are most like the devil when we slander.** When we speak against somebody else (including all kinds of criticism, maligning, judging) we're doing the devil's work for him. That's what the devil's job description is. John 8:44 says, "*The devil is the father of lies.*" Revelation says he's the "accuser of brothers." It's unchristian to judge other people.

2. It's unloving

We shouldn't judge others because it's unloving. "*...who judges speaks against the Law...*" Is it illegal? Is there a law against judging in the United States? He's talking about the Royal Law.

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right."

James 2:8

James says if you do this you're doing right. When I judge you, I'm breaking the Royal Law -- the law of love -- "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" We say, "It's just words and people will forget them." People don't forget words. You always remember them. It's unchristian and unloving.

3. It's unjustified

"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?"
James 4:12

The word "lawgiver" is used six times in the Old Testament and only once in the New Testament. The six times in the Old Testament it refers to God. The same thing here -- it's referring to God. Only God has the right to judge. It's in God's job description. It's not in your job description to judge people.

I know on any occasion that I preach there are enough statements that I make, I am bound to make a mistake. And that mistake is enough for some to disqualify anything else that I say. There is such a judging attitude at times because someone has an offense with me and they are allowing it to hinder their ear to hear the Word of God. When someone makes one mistake we write off the whole person. If a guy makes a foolish mistake, we say, "He's a fool, stay clear of him."

This couldn't be a truer statement, **"We tend to judge in other people things we dislike in ourselves."** Psychologists have known that for a long time. When you see someone who reacts violently to a particular sin usually in their heart it means they have a hang up with it. It doesn't mean they're involved in it. It might just mean they have a fear that they will be involved in it. We always tend to react to our weaknesses in others. What we see is usually just a mirror of self.

WHEN IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS?

There are seven places in Scripture where it says it is wrong to judge. The Scripture does say in some places that we are to judge certain things. We're to judge ourselves, and we're to judge certain matters. But there's seven times it says, don't do this.

1. When I Am Doing The Same Thing

"You therefore have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else. For at whatever point you judge others you're condemning yourself for you who pass judgement do the same thing. Now we know that God's judgement on those who do such things is based on truth, so when you a mere man pass judgement on them and yet you do the same thing, do you think you'll escape God's judgement?"

Romans 2:1-3

The time when **it's wrong to judge other people is when I'm practicing the same sin.** I don't have any right to speak up, if I lack the personal integrity, I'm guilty too.

2. When I Am Looking At You To Avoid Me

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother 'Let me take the speck out of your eye' when there's a plank in your own eye. You hypocrite! First take the plank out of your own eye and then you can see clearly to remove the speck in your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:3-5

Jesus is talking here in His famous Sermon on the Mount. This is a good example of

the fact that Jesus told jokes. Hebrew humor is humor by exaggeration. If you read through the Sermon on the Mount it has a number of laugh lines in it, this being one of them. He said this in exaggeration and I'm sure the disciples got a big laugh. Imagine two guys: one guy has got some sawdust in his eye and the other has a telephone pole hanging out of his eye. Later on He says, "Just imagine: it's easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than somebody with a lot of money to make it into heaven just on his own money." That's Hebrew humor -- humor by exaggeration. So it's wrong when you practice the same sin. It's wrong when it blinds you to your own faults.

3. When I Am Judging By Your Outside Appearance

"Jesus says, 'Stop judging by mere appearance and make a right judgement.'"
John 7:24

We tend to make our impression of people in about the first 15 seconds and most of that is in the way that they look. We judge people, we size them up. Their face, clothing, hairdo. If you judge just on the basis of appearance, that's unwise.

I Samuel 16:7. Samuel said this when he chose David, the runt of the family to be king of Israel. Others were saying, "Not David! That scrawny kid! He's nothing. The other brothers are the sharp ones!" Samuel said, "God doesn't look at the appearance. God looks at the heart."

4. When I Am Making A Judgement Before I Know Both Sides Of The Story

"Nicodemus who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number asked (talking to the Sanhedrin) 'Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?'"
John 7:51

It is unwise to make a judgement about somebody before you know all the facts. If you study scripture you'll find that even if your conclusions are right about that person you're still wrong -- because you did it without getting the facts. There is always more than one side to a story. There are three sides to a story: your side, their side, God's side. Usually we have partial truth.

5. When I Am Judging People Because Of Their Spiritual Convictions

"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat, drink, or regard to religious festivals, a new moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the thing to come. Reality, however, is found in Christ."
Colossians 2:16

Paul is saying it is wrong to judge people, their spirituality, on the basis of externals, religious observances. You can't tell a person's walk with God based on their outward external observances -- by what you eat or drink or if you worship on Saturday or Sunday. These are just a shadow of the things to come. Reality is found in Christ. When I judge somebody on the basis of their outward religious observances I'm missing the point.

Romans 14 is all about a church where some people were judging each other because

they looked at certain habits and said "You couldn't be a Christian and do that!" Many times people say, "Can I be a Christian and ...?" and then they name their pet habit. It's like "How close to the cliff can I get and not fall off?" or "How close to the fire can I get and not get burned." "Can I do this and still call myself a believer?" Paul says this is what is happening. You're judging each other and calling each other weak or strong. You're fighting back and forth. He says there are three things that cause a lot of conflict: drink, diet, days. What you drink, what you eat, and when you worship.

"Accept him who is weak in the faith without passing judgement on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything. But another whose faith is weak eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not. The man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does for God has accepted him."

v. 22 *"So whatever you believe about these things, keep them between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves."* Happy is the guy who's got a clear conscience. You've got freedom on areas that are not clearly spelled out in scripture.

v. 20 *"Don't destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean but it's wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It's better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else to cause your brother to fall."*

6. When I Am Speaking Evil About Another Christian

"Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it."
James 4:11

"Don't do it," I'm saying I'm more important than the law. I'm putting myself above the law. I'm making myself the law. I'm the creator and judge of all things. Anything that causes me to speak evil about another Christian, maybe to ruin their reputation, is wrong. We are to hate wrong but we're to love people even when they are doing wrong. Ephesians 4:29 says we're always to speak positively, speak only those things that build up and encourage. Christians ought to be known for their encouragement not their criticism. We don't need nagging; we need encouragement. We know what's right, we just need encouragement to do it. I would like to be known as an encourager. I think that's what God wants us to be.

7. When I Am Thinking I Know The Motive Of The Other Person

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time. Wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts."
1 Corinthians 4:5

To understand this you have to understand the verses around it. What is Paul talking about? He's talking about motives. Everywhere Paul went his motives were constantly being challenged, questioned. He say, *"wait until the Lord comes."* It's premature to judge people's motives. Why is it premature? Nobody really knows what's in somebody else's heart. You can guess but you don't know. To judge somebody means we're judging without all the facts. Only God has the right to judge because he

can see in the heart. The Bible says that someday when the Lord comes back, *"he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's heart."* I have a hard enough time just trying to figure out my own motives about a lot of things, much less making a good guess at yours. So do you. A lot of times we don't know why we do what we do. What makes us think we can figure out what makes other people do what they do? We have a hard time just judging our own selves. But one day it's all going to be brought to light.

Story from a book by David Roper: Once a group of young men decided to play a practical joke on a young bachelor executive who worked with them in Dallas. It was the custom each Thanksgiving for the president of the firm to give free turkeys to all employees. The young friend had indicated his displeasure at the idea since, being a young bachelor, he had no idea what he'd do with a whole turkey and furthermore, he had no desire to cook it. His friends, therefore, confiscated his turkey and replaced it with one made out of paper mache, the only remains of the original bird being the neck and the tail which protruded from the paper wrappings. The day before the holidays, the birds were handed out ceremoniously. This guy, unaware of the switch, tucked his bogus bird under his arm and caught the streetcar for home. As he was setting there feeling a little self-conscious, a man seated himself on the bench next to him. Since the turkey was an obvious conversation piece they were soon engaged talking about the turkey. In the course of time, the young man learned his companion was without a job and down on his luck for some time. Therefore he had dim prospects for a happy Thanksgiving. He was on his way home with a few pounds of hamburger meat tucked in his coat pocket to be the entire Thanksgiving meal for his family.

This dear person had a brilliant idea. Why not swap? The man, of course, was delighted. The generosity was overwhelming. With a great sense of gratitude they made the exchange. Of course, you can imagine the outcome and the man's thoughts when he removed the wrappings from the turkey and his children crowded around wide-eyed with anticipation. The young man, when he learned what his friends had done, searched for days for that man who he had unwittingly cheated but unfortunately he was never found. The point is obvious. The poor, defrauded man, from his vantage point, would never understand the young man's actions. To this day, I'm sure the incident stands out in his mind as an example of man's inhumanity to man. Yet from the young man's point of view, his motives were pure.

You can never judge anybody's motives, what they're doing. You don't know what's going on.

Breaking What's Killing You

1. Remember You Will Come Under The Same Judgement As Others Will

"Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others."
Matthew 7:1-2

How ever you judge someone else, the same will come your way. Remember that a mind that critically dwells on the shortcomings of someone else will eventually find a way to share it. If you want help breaking a condemning spirit and judgmental thoughts, remember what this scripture says. Have no doubt, the laws of seed time

harvest is in full operation here, you will reap what you sow.

2. Remember You Will Come Under The Same Judge As Others Will

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken."

Matthew 12:36

The truth is, no one can demand that you behave properly. God has placed leadership in the church to assist everyone in being aware of the unprofitable ways of living and the shaping of commendable and a profitable life.

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

The truth is, one day we will all have to stand before God for the words that come out of our mouth, especially for slander. God will judge us fair and truthfully, but He will not be accepting excuses. We cannot excuse the flying tongue because of a hurting heart. I don't know how God is going to judge us all, but one thing is clear, He will judge us all. For those who have in the back of their mind, "Yea, I have the blood of Jesus covering me." I would respond to that statement this way, His blood is sufficient to forgive you, and it is sufficient to heal you. To get your forgiveness is an event, it could happen in one minute. But to get your healing could take days or weeks. His blood is sufficient, but for the whole process. One day we'll all be judged by the Lord and we'll give an account to Him.

3. Remember You Have Come Under A Merciful God

"Mercy triumphs over judgement."

James 2:13

In Exodus 32, Moses had just come down from the mountain with the ten commandments in his hands. When he entered the community of people, they were dancing before an idol of Egypt. Their lives had digressed and become repulsive to God.

In Exodus 33 it was pretty much over. God wanted Moses to leave the land and the people and He was still going to make a great nation out of Moses' descendants. But Moses pleaded with God. In verse 13 Moses reminded God that this nation of Israelites were His people, even though they were stiff-necked. And the Lord spoke these comforting words to Moses:

"The LORD replied, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'" Then Moses said to him, 'If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?'"

Exodus 33:14-15 16

"And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am

pleased with you and I know you by name."Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

Exodus 33:17-18

"And the LORD said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.'"

Exodus 33:19

God is full of mercy and willing to give it out. God is the author of the principle of mercy. In Matthew 18, Jesus said, "*Blessed are the merciful.*" in the story of the unforgiving servant. He owed \$50,000 to his master and his master forgave him. He went out and found the guy that owed him \$5 and strangled the guy because he wouldn't pay him. When the master heard about it he took the servant and said, "If that's the way you want to play the game, and remain unforgiving, it will take away my cover that I had given you and you are now unforgiven."

The Bible says we're to be merciful because God has given us so much mercy. None of us deserve the mercy of God, but He gave it to us any ways. It's not through some magical feeling, though feeling often come when you have fully discovered God's mercy. But it is through His Son, Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the sins that so easily entangles us. See, the reason you have to be patient with me is because God is patient with you. It's all by God's grace.