

Book of James

a blueprint for faith in today's world

How Do We Speak in Love and Avoid Damaging Relationships?

Read James 4:11-12

Listen to the Message 'How Do We Speak in Love and Avoid Damaging Relationships?' (26th November 2023) at www.elim.family/media

In this sermon, Pastor Jim reflects on the challenges and joys of relationships. He draws attention to James 4:11-12, highlighting the pitfalls of judging others and the importance of recognizing God as the ultimate judge.

The sermon explores the concept of slander, emphasizing the difference between challenging someone and spreading damaging information. Pastor Jim provides practical steps for living differently, including the importance of reflection before speaking and thinking about the truthfulness and necessity of words. The message encourages a loving and compassionate approach, echoing Jesus' guidance in Matthew 18:15-17. Ultimately, the sermon concludes with a call to prayer and a reminder to consider the question from James: "Who are you to judge your neighbour?"

Questions for reflection:

1. How do you personally experience the tension between love for others and the frustrations that can arise in relationships?
2. In light of James 4:11-12, how can you actively avoid slander and judgment in your interactions with others, both within and outside the church?
3. Can you recall a situation where you had to differentiate between challenging someone and potentially engaging in slander? What did you learn from that experience?
4. According to James 1:19, how can the practice of being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry impact your relationships and communication?

5. How can you practically follow Jesus' advice in Matthew 18:15-17 when facing challenges in relationships? What might be the benefits of approaching the person directly before involving others?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.