

## Finding Fault

James 4:11-12

Main Point: When I find fault with other believers, I am taking God's place as Judge.

### I. Being Critical – Do not find fault with other believers (James 4:11).

- A. Slandering – Speaking critically about your spiritual brother/sister to others (4:11a).
- B. Judging– Thinking critical thoughts, looking down on your brother in your heart (4:11b)
  - 1. “Speaks against/judges the law” – When we find fault, we are violating God's “law of love” (2:8,12-13).
  - 2. “Not keeping it” – When we judge if someone else is obeying God, we are not obeying God.

#### Clarifications

- **Appropriate “judging”** – Legitimate authority can discern and decide issues (*Government* – Romans 13:1-5; *Parents* – Heb. 12:7-11; *Employers* – 1 Peter 2:18-20; *Church Leaders* – Heb. 13:17; 1 Cor. 5:9-13).
- **Inappropriate judging** – Don't judge; Take care of your own issues (Luke 6:37, 41-42). Don't judge other believers personal convictions and preferences (Romans 14:1,4,13,22).
- **Am I discerning or judging?** – When I disapprove of what other Christians do, do I *care more* for them or *think less* of them?

### II. Usurping God's position – Only God is qualified to judge (James 4:12).

- A. God alone has authority to determine fault and handle every situation (4:12a)
- B. We have no right to usurp God's position by fault-finding (4:12b).