

# The Sin of Slander

James 4:11-12  
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# The Prohibition (v.11a)

- It is Given to Believers
- It is Given to Stop Slanderous Speech
  - This was already going on
  - He calls for it to stop
  - The phrase “speak evil” comes from a compound verb Katalaleo

# The Problem (v.11b-d)

- You Are Condemning Your Brother (v.11b)
  - When you “speak against” a brother you are actually condemning him
  - Believers need to be seen for who they are and not maliciously condemn with defaming speech

## **The Problem (v.11b-d)**

- You Are Condemning the Law (v.11c)
  - Jesus said that loving God and your neighbor “hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Mat.22:40)
  - An examination of the Ten Commandments reveals them to be ten features of love verbalized

## **The Problem (v.11b-d)**

- You Are Condemning God (v.11d)
  - Anytime we ignore God's Word we condemn God who spoke it and commands our obedience to it
  - Obedience to God's Word reveals our love for God

## **The Principle (v.12)**

- There is Only One Lawgiver and Judge (v.12a)
  - This stresses that God alone is the sovereign ruler and judge of the universe
  - If He is the only true God and there is no other then He is also the Judge of the universe

# The Principle (v.12)

- You Have No Grounds to Condemn Others (v.12b)
  - We all have been guilty of this. The question is “Do we repent of it when it happens?”
  - If we truly love God and one another, then we will seek to be at peace with one another rather than using our tongues for slander