

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 4:11-12

Lesson #18

Judging others

07/04/2021

**Accusation of moral discernment
was the core of Eve's temptation.**

Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, **knowing good and evil.**"



The Fall would lead to its abuse (pride, shame, fear, bitterness, abuse, and division).

1

1. **Correcting** others has an important place in Christian ministry,

1 Corinthians 5

"9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler - not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? **Do you not judge those who are within the church?** 13 **But those who are outside, God judges.** Remove (put in "time out") the wicked man from among yourselves."

but it is NOT the subject of Jas 4:11-12. 2

James 4

"11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. 12 There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?"

3

What is James' concern in this passage?

- **NOT:** discerning right and wrong, confronting a wayward brother / sister, or church disciplined by elders.
- **BUT:** the abuse of discernment.
 - The tendency to pridefully **weaponize** moral knowledge.
 - The tendency to neglect **humility, truth, and love.**



4

What is James' approach in this passage?

- **NOT:** using the Bible as proof texts as to what to do.
- **BUT:** understanding the essence of God, the Law, and humanity.
 - Discernment extends beyond the precepts of the Law to **wisdom in its administration.**
 - **Listen up, shut up, and cool it.**



5

Ethical discernment is knowing
the Ruler, not just the rules.

Law



"God is Holy"
Beliefs and behaviors
are most important.

Wall builders

Grace

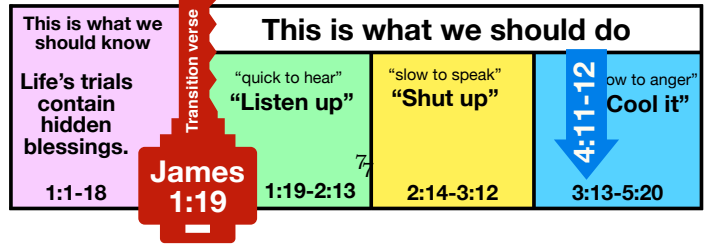


"God is Love"
Grace and mercy
are most important.

Bridge builders

6

James Kingdom Living in a Broken World



Before you judge others, check your
**facts, circumstances,
motives, and humility.**

7

✓ **The context** is humble behavior in the presence of God's image.

James 4

¹⁰ **Humble yourselves**
in the presence of the Lord, . . .

¹¹ Do **not speak against one another**, brethren"

✓ **The way we talk about and to others**
is linked to how we see & relate to God.

James 3

⁹ With it (the tongue) we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been **made in the likeness of God**; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way."

8

The **general guideline** in speaking to others is to speak the truth with sensitivity and love.

Ephesians 4:15

"speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in all aspects into Him,"

The first steps in that process are to:

Aquire wisdom - discernment of a lot more than what is the letter of the Law.

Humble oneself - self examination.

9

Galatians 6

¹ Brethren, even if a man is caught (trapped) in any trespass, you who are **spiritual**, restore (bring back) such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one **looking to yourself**, lest you too be tempted. ² **Bear one another's burdens**, and thus **fulfill the law of Christ**. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. ⁵ For each one shall bear his own load."

10

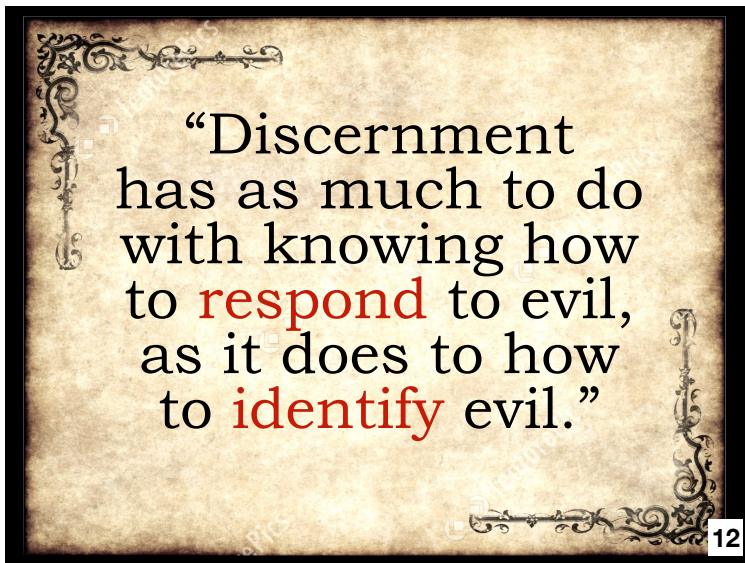
James 4

¹¹ He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. ¹² There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?"

The "Judge", in this context, is **above**
1) the law and 2) the one judged.

Disciples can **discipline** the Body of Christ but not **"lord it over"** the church. They can put others in "time out" but not **"cast them away"**.

11

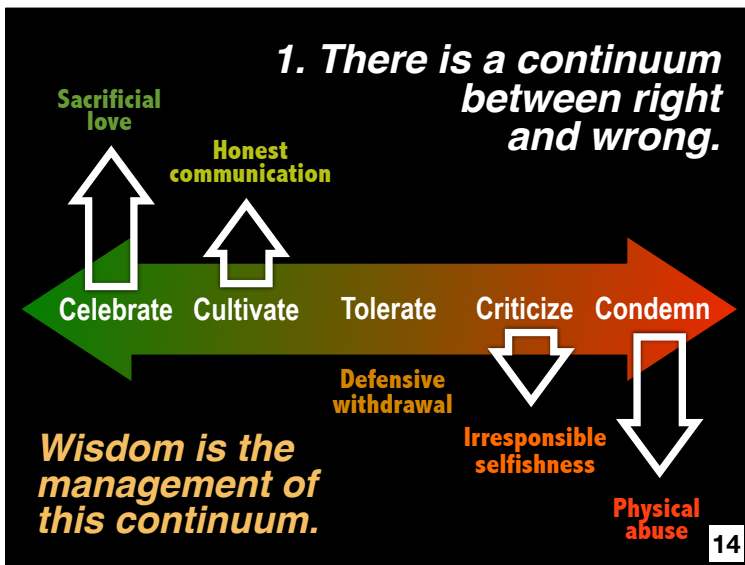


Wise discernment is a function of **experience over time.**

Hebrews 5

“12 For though **by this time** you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the **elementary principles** of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of **practice have their senses trained to discern** good and evil.”

13



Example of proper application

Romans 14

“1 Now **accept the one who is weak in faith**, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. 2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”

15

Example of proper application

James 5

“7 Therefore be **patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 **Do not complain, brethren, against one another**, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”

1 Peter 2:1

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all **slander**,”

16

Example of proper application

Ephesians 4

“1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

17

Example of proper application

1 Corinthians 5

“9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 **I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world**, . . . 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if . . . 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But **those who are outside, God judges**. *Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.*”

18

“All people
deserve respect,
**but not all ideas
or behaviors.**”

19

James 1:19

“But everyone must be
**quick to hear,
slow to speak**
and
slow to anger”

20

*When we discern faults
in others.*

Our **FIRST RESPONSE**
should be to
**listen, shut up,
and cool down.**



21