

SPEAKING EVIL

The Greek noun, **nomos (law)**, is used four times without a definite article in (Jas.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.”

Without the Greek definite article, it is emphasizing quality, character, intent or purpose of law rather than identifying the subject of The Law. The meaning of a word is determined by its usage in context.

When you remove the grace of God in Jesus Christ from the Law, it becomes religious ritual without spiritual reality.

(Rom.10:4) “For Christ is the **end of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.”
(Matt.5:17) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

This lesson will study four aspects of SPEAKING EVIL against other believers.

Two warnings are issued with this command in (Jas.4:11).

1. Our lesson text opens with a command to stop!

(Jas.4:11a) “SPEAKING EVIL AGAINST (katalaleo) (**p.a.impv.2pl**) (**me**) [stop] speaking down to others (equality in Christ) (Gal.3:28) ONE ANOTHER (allelon) [one of the same kind] (gplm) BRETHREN (adelphos) (Church Age Believers).”

Katalaleo is used by Peter in (1 Pet.2:1, 11-12; 3:15-17) (speaking evil against, back-biting, slander). It refers to tearing other believers down with words. We should always treat them with equality in Christ no matter what our position of authority might be regarding them (Gal.3:28)

- (Eph.6:4) Parenting
- (Eph.6:9) Employment
- (1 Pet.2:13-17) National leadership

2. First warning is given to the believer who uses his tongue to tear down rather than to build-up another believer in Christ.

- **The Sin of Tongue:** “He who speaks against (katalaleo/ p.a.ptc.nsm) a brother or judges (krino/ p.a.ptc.nsm) his brother.”
- **1st Warning:** “He speaks against (p.a.ind.3ps) law and judges (krino/ p.a.ind.3ps) law;” (Jas.4:11a)

(Rom.14:19) “So then we **pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.**”

(1 Thess.5:11) “Therefore **encourage one another and build up one another**, just as you also are doing.”

(Eph.4:29) “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but **only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.**”

3. **The second warning is given to those believers who refuse to heed the command and first warning.**

Judging others with the sin of the tongue: “But if (1cc/ true) he judges (krino/ p.a.ind.2ps) law,”

- **2nd Warning:** “You are **not a doer (poietes) of law** but (alla/ contrast) a **judge (krites/ legal expert and critic) of it.**” (Jas.4:11b)

(Jas.1:22) “But **prove yourselves doers of the word**, and not merely hearers **who delude themselves.**

(Jas.1:26) “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and **yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart**, this man’s religion is worthless.”

4. **Whoever is speaking evil against (sins of tongues) another believer is speaking evil against the law and speaking evil against the One and the Only Lawgiver and Judge.**

(Jas.4:12) “There is **only one Lawgiver and Judge**, the One who is able to save and to destroy;

Question: but who are you who Judge your neighbor? (Matt.10:28; Heb.10:30-31)

(Rom.14:1) “**Now accept** the one who is weak in faith, **but not for the purpose of passing judgment** on his opinions.”

(Jas.5:9) “**Do not complain, brethren, against one another**, so that you yourselves may not be **judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.**”

(Matt.7:1-5) Compound divine discipline/ judged for judging!

Paul asked two Questions: “But you, **why** do you judge your brother? Or you **again, why** do you regard your brother with contempt? **For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**”

(Rom.14:10; 2 Cor.5:10)