

Week of January 8 - Who Are You? Small Group Lesson 12

Connect

If you are going to measure something many times, what is more important: the know-how to take a measurement, a notebook, or having calibrated equipment to measure with? Why? What happens if you have all three but one is off?

Verses - James 4:11-12 (CSB)

11 Don't criticize one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who defames or judges a fellow believer defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

James 2:8-9 - 8 Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, Love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. 9 If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Genesis 4:8 - Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Galatians 3:28 - There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 18:15 - "If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother.

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

Luke 19:8 - But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much."

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Study

1. James continues to instruct us how to fulfill the Royal Law (love your neighbor as yourself) - the foundation of what he has been teaching throughout this letter. (James 2:8-9) What is its connection to today's verses?

2. In the fall of man, how was the Royal Law affected - was the law itself changed, did knowledge of how to judge become lost, or was the role of the judge changed? What effect did this have? (Genesis 4:8)

3. What is the corrective power in the gospel to judging others? Why is the gospel a contrast in doing so? (Galatians 3:28)

☕ **DISCUSS:** Should we apply the gospel when we have been offended or when we have offended someone? (Matthew 18:15) How do we apply it in both situations? What is the end goal in either case? (James 5:16)

🏃 **APPLY:** What would the regenerative power of the gospel cause a bigot to do? What could/might he now do better than in the past? (Luke 19:8) Why is buying gifts for everyone a poor example of doing right?

Share

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What situations do believers often face that prevent them from living this way due to judging others? What is the gospel remedy in such situations?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for a desire of unity in fellowship.