> *(James 4:11, ESV):*
> “Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”

Answer:
To fully understand what James means, we need to explore both the context of his epistle and the broader biblical principles he draws upon. James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, writes this letter to believers facing internal divisions, worldliness, and judgmental attitudes. James warns that speaking evil or passing judgment on fellow believers is a serious matter—not merely an interpersonal issue but a spiritual offense against God’s law.

Let’s break it down with a practical example:

Imagine a president visits a rural area and finds a destitute family where all members are disabled and unable to work. Out of compassion, he orders that they be given a home, monthly food

supplies, and their basic needs be covered by the government for life. After the president leaves, the regional governor visits and decides the family is simply lazy and unworthy of such help. He accuses them, delays their assistance, and treats them harshly.

On the surface, it may appear the governor is just being critical of the family. But in reality, he’s rejecting and disobeying the president’s command. His actions indirectly question the president’s wisdom, compassion, and authority—even if he claims to respect him.

Likewise, James is saying that when we judge or speak evil of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not only harming them—we’re positioning ourselves above the law of God, which commands love, mercy, and humility. In essence, we declare the law to be flawed, and assume a role that belongs to God alone: the role of Judge.

The Law of Christ

The “law” James refers to is likely the *royal law* mentioned earlier in

> James 2:8 (ESV)*:*
> “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.”

This echoes the teaching of Jesus in *Matthew 22:37–40*, where He says all the Law and the Prophets depend on the commands to love God and love your neighbor.

Furthermore,

> Matthew 7:1–2 (ESV) *warns:*
> “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”

Jesus is not forbidding all discernment but condemns a hypocritical and self-righteous spirit that ignores one’s own faults while harshly condemning others (see Matthew 7:3–5).

Restoration, Not Condemnation

Instead of condemning, Scripture teaches us to restore our brothers and sisters gently and with humility.

> Galatians 6:1–2 (ESV):
> “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

This “law of Christ” is the command to love sacrificially, just as Christ loved us (*John 13:34–35*). Judging others without love not only violates this law, but it reveals a failure to grasp God’s grace, which we ourselves depend on.

Conclusion:

When we slander or judge fellow believers, we don’t merely offend them—we oppose God’s law and set ourselves up as superior to it. Instead of judging, God calls us to live out His law through love, compassion, and gentle correction. We are not judges—we are fellow recipients of grace, called to walk humbly and help one another grow in Christ.

May the Lord bless and guide you as you walk in His grace

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