

## The Sin of Slander

James 4:11-12

*The sin of slander exalts one above another, above the law, and above the Lawgiver. This is blasphemy.*

- I. Do not judge a \_\_\_\_\_ (11a).
  - A. Judging is different from \_\_\_\_\_ the morality of a matter (Eph 5:10; Rom 12:9 1 Thess 5:22).
  - B. Judging is demanded when \_\_\_\_\_ the immorality of a brother (Gal 6:1).
  - C. Judging is damaging when it is \_\_\_\_\_ the character or integrity of another (Gal 5:15).
- II. Do not judge the \_\_\_\_\_ (11b).
- III. Do not judge the \_\_\_\_\_ (12a).
- IV. Do judge \_\_\_\_\_ (12b).

The sinfulness of sin not only appears from, but consists in this, that it is contrary to God. Indeed, it is contrariety and enmity itself. Carnal men, or sinners are called by the name of enemies to God (Romans 5:8 with 10; Colossians 1:21); but the carnal mind or sin is called enmity itself (Romans 8:7). Accordingly, it and its acts are expressed by names of enmity and acts of hostility, such as, walking contrary to God (Leviticus 26:21), rebelling against God (Isaiah 1:2), rising up against him as an enemy (Micah 2:8), striving and contending with God (Isaiah 45:9), and despising God (Numbers 11:20). It makes men haters of God (Romans 1:30), resisters of God (Acts 7:51), fighters against God (Acts 5:39 and 23:9), even blasphemers of God, and in short very atheists, who say there is no God (Psalm 14:1). It goes about to ungod God, and is by some of the ancients called Deicidium, God-murder or God-killing.

*- English Puritan Ralph Venning*

## Principles to Protect Us from the Sin of Slander

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to believe innocence.
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to pronounce guilt.
3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to restoration.
4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ if at all possible.