

Intro:

XII. The Blasphemous Sin of Defaming Others

A. What We Think of Others - vs 11a

1. Brethren, brother, brother

a. 3 fold repetition reminds us of familial relationship we have w/ believers

b. slander is the antithesis of what is expected and acceptable in the family

c. But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! - Ga 5:15

2. speak evil of one another - to be expected from the world - 1 Pet 2:12; 3:16

3. judges his brother

a. closely associated with slander is judgmentalism - Mt 7:1-5

b. *krino* - to distinguish, decide (mentally or judicially); to try, condemn, punish; avenge, conclude, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think.

4. overcoming this sin

a. not keeping one's lips sealed - put off?

b. remembering that all of us (believers) are chosen, loved, honored by God, died for by Christ, we will spend eternity with each other - think right about one another - put on

B. What We Think of the Law - vs 11b

1. loving others is the essence of the law - Mt 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." "This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

2. The ten commandments and love

a. no other Gods - love is not fickle, but single minded, devoted

b. no idols of any - love is faithful in practice

c. no name of God in vain - love is respectful toward its object

d. remember the Sabbath - love is intimate, devoted to its object

e. honor mom and dad - love is submissive

f. no murder - love values others

g. no adultery - love is pure, desires purity in its object

h. no stealing - love is unselfish

i. no lying - love is truthful

j. no coveting things of others - love is content, wants the best for others

3. therefore

a. to speak evil of someone is to speak evil of the law

b. to speak evil of someone is to judge the law.

4. therefore

a. But if you judge the law,

b. you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

i. this one's actions show one's attitude of being superior to the law

ii. Such disrespect is blasphemy against God placing oneself above God

C. What We Think of God - vs 12a

1. There is one Lawgiver,

a. thinking otherwise is placing oneself on par with Satan - the 5 I wills - Isa 14:13-14 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

b. the desire to usurp the place of God is the essence of every sin

c. sin ultimately wants to murder God - see B3bii

d. all sin is ultimately against God

i. Le 5:19b he has certainly trespassed against the LORD."

ii. Le 6:2 "If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor

iii. David confesses - Ps 51:4a Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight

iv. Nathan confirms this - 2Sa 12:9 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight?'

e. One is emphatic

i. one is the lawgiver

ii. God alone is the sovereign ruler

f. lawgiver

i. *nomothetes* - a legislator:--lawgiver.

ii. Used only here

iii. Refers to the one who put the law in place

g. (judge) - not in NKJV - Why?

i. *krites* - refers to one who applies the law

ii. Isa 33:22 (For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us);

2. who is able to save and to destroy.

a. save - by faith like Abraham and David - **Ro 4:1-8**

b. destroy - *apollumi* - to destroy fully (reflexively, to perish, or lose), destroy, die, lose, mar, perish.

i. not annihilation, but to eternal destruction in hell - Mt 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

ii. Isa 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

iii. Jesus said the same thing in **Mr 9:44,46,48**

D. What We Think of Ourselves - vs 12b

1. Who are you to judge another? Lit - Who do you think you are to sit in condemnation of another?

2. Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

3. Ro 14:4 **Who are you to judge another's servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

4. Ro 14:13 Therefore **let us not judge one another anymore**, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.