The Way to Resolve Quarrels: Treat Each Other Well

James 4:11-12

 Good morning! Please open your Bibles to the 4th chapter of James. Today we will be discussing verses 11-12, which will give us the tools we need to be proactive regarding disputes and quarrels that can take place in the body of Christ. Before we begin looking at these verses let us quickly review what we have discovered so far in the fourth chapter of the Epistle of James. So far, we have learned that quarrels and fighting that takes place in the body of Christ happen because of our selfish desires to have control over others and because we are trying to get our hands on things that we really should not desire. Rather than allow our selfish lusts to dominate our minds, James gives us a list of traits that we need to model in our lives. He told us that we need to be humble toward God, we need to submit to God. We need to draw close to God so that He may draw close to us, we need to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts and we need to approach God with a repentant heart acknowledging our sin and our desire to change from that former way of life. If we do those things, then we can have a better relationship with God. Now the verses we are going to discuss today will outline the things we need to do to have a better relationship with others in the body of Christ as well as with others in the world. Please read with me James 4:11-12: “Do not speak against one another, brothers and sisters. The one who speaks against a brother or sister, or judges his brother or sister, 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. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you, judging your neighbor?”

As we begin to look closely at this passage, we are beginning to see that there is a word being used repeatedly. What is that word? Yes, the word is judging. This word is used quite a bit in our culture today because when someone questions another regarding the way they choose to live their life they are many times referred to as being judgmental. Being judgmental is not the same thing as practicing sound judgment, which is the topic that we will discuss today. As we begin our discussion let us look closely at verse 11. It reads: “Do not speak against one another, brother and sisters.” To understand what James is referring to here we need to make sure that we are considering what he has already said regarding the use of the tongue. In chapter 3 James warned his readers not to use their tongues to curse others who have been made in the image of God. Therefore, when James tells his readers not to speak against others, he is instructing them not to curse others in the body of Christ with their tongues.