

Title ideas:
Living Right in God's
Sovereignty!
Living Right in God's Will!

James 4:11-17 - Living Right in God's Will!

Scriptures:

Proverbs 6:16-19 -

These six things the LORD
hates,

Yes, seven are an
abomination to Him:
17 A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent
blood,

18 A heart that
devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in
running to evil,

19 A false witness who
speaks lies,
And one who sows
discord among brethren.

John 13:34-35 - A new
commandment I give to
you, that you love one
another; as I have loved
you, that you also love one
another. 35 By this all will
know that you are My
disciples, if you have love
for one another."

James 2:8 - If you really
fulfill the royal law
according to the Scripture,
"You shall love your
neighbor as yourself," you
do well...

¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He

2635 – slander – "to
slander v. — to charge
falsely or with
malicious intent; attack
the good name and
reputation of someone.

who speaks evil of a brother and judges his

2919 – condemn,
judge as guilty

brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law.

But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the

law but a judge.

Notes:

"When you have been humbled
before God, it inevitably affects the
way you speak to others." (Platt,
2014) page 91

'one another' = other believers.
Speaking of other Christians kills
community. It is self-centered rather
than God-centered. God doesn't like
it (Prov. 6:16-19).

Speaking evil of another Christian is
dishonoring God. It places you above
God in judgment. It is judging that
person's motives which we are
incapable of doing.

It violates the 'new commandment'
that Jesus gave to love one another
(John 13:34-35). It also violates the
'royal law' (Jam. 2:8).

There are times when it is
appropriate to confront another
believer about their sin. But before
we do, we need to examine our
heart and make sure there is no
selfish ambition and envy there
directed at that person. Our
motivation should always be to help
someone grow in their faith and
obedience to Christ.

Scriptures:

¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and

3550 -

1410 - be able,
have ability

4982 -

Notes:

'Lawgiver' - some translations (NASB, ESV, NLT) include 'and Judge'.

"This is the kind of speech that ought to characterize believers-speech that demonstrates a love of God and neighbor. Out of the overflow of our hearts we want our words to glorify God and point others to His truth." (Platt, 2014) page 92

~~to~~ destroy. Who are you to judge another?

622 -

2919 -

Scriptures:

¹³ Come now, **you** who say, “Today or tomorrow

Notes:

Declaring what you will do in your own strength without declaring dependence upon God.

This is also a warning against becoming consumed with the material realm to the point where we neglect the spiritual realm.

we will go to such and such a city, spend a year

The problem is not about planning for the future but in doing it in a way that leaves God out of the plan.

There are three primary forces at work in the lives of humans; the flesh, the world, and God.

there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

Scriptures:
Psalm 90:12 - So teach us
to number our days,
That we may gain a heart
of wisdom.



¹⁴ whereas **you** do not know what *will happen*

1987 – possess
information
about

Notes:
God is sovereign over life and death.
He is sovereign over every breath
and heartbeat. No one is guaranteed
to live lay their head on their pillow
tonight.

We shouldn't be living like we are
going to be here forever, because
we aren't going to be here forever.
Instead, live your life in humble
dependence before God with the
understanding that life is precious,
and time might be limited ([Psa.
90:12](#)).

"It is wrong to plan as if tomorrow
were certain." (MacDonald, 1990)
page 1054

 tomorrow. For what *is* **your** life? It is even a vapor 

2222 -

822 – mist,
smoke

that appears for a little time  and then

vanishes away.

853 – cease to
exist

Scriptures:

¹⁵ Instead **you** *ought* to say, “If the Lord  wills, we

Notes:
It is a very humbling thing to
understand that if I live it is because
it is God's will that I live.

Remember that James is a book of
action and commands. The fact that
God is sovereign should not lead us
to a passive fatalism but to an active
dependence upon God.

Because God is sovereign, we need
God's grace to 'do this or that.' And
in the previous text we learned that
we must be humble before God if
we want to experience God's grace.
And humility before God must
include obedience to His commands.

The will of God is not a shackle that
chains me – it is a key that sets me
free.

 shall live and do this or that.”

Scriptures:

¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such

2744 – brag
about

212 – false pride

Notes:

They were acting as if they were masters of their own fate.

“Man cannot control future Events. He has neither the wisdom to see the future nor the power to control the future. For him to boast is sin; it is making himself God.” Warren Wiersbe – page 371

boasting is ~~evil~~.

4190 – wicked,
bad, morally
corrupt

Scriptures:
 Matthew 25:31-46 -
 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and

1492 -

2570 - (moral)

does not do it, to him it is sin.

266 - "sin (act) n. — an act or feeling that transgresses something forbidden or ignores something required by God's law or character; whether in thought, feeling, speech, or action."

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Notes:

In context this means to take God into consideration in our planning and every aspect of our lives. The best way to live is in moment by moment dependence upon God for everything.

"Humble submission to God's will means humble obedience to God's will." (Platt, 2014) page 95

We usually think of sin in relation to things that God has told us not to do. Like, 'do not lie – do not steal – do not commit adultery.' God has also told us to do things, like, 'love your neighbor as yourself – forgive one another.' Sins of omission are as bad as sins of commission. Not doing what God has told us to do is as bad as doing what God has told us not to do.

James told us earlier not to show favoritism. If we show favoritism, we are committing a sin of commission. He also told us to care for the needy. To not do that would be a sin of omission. Sin is sin.

When describing those who were going to hell Jesus condemned them, not for what they did, but for what they didn't do ([Matt. 25:41-43](#)).

Real faith that works does what God says and doesn't do what God says not to do.

"In any area of life, the opportunity to do good makes us responsible to do it." (MacDonald, 1990) page 1054

"He (man) acts as though the will of God is something he can accept or reject. In reality, the will of God is not an option; it is an obligation." Warren Wiersbe – page 372