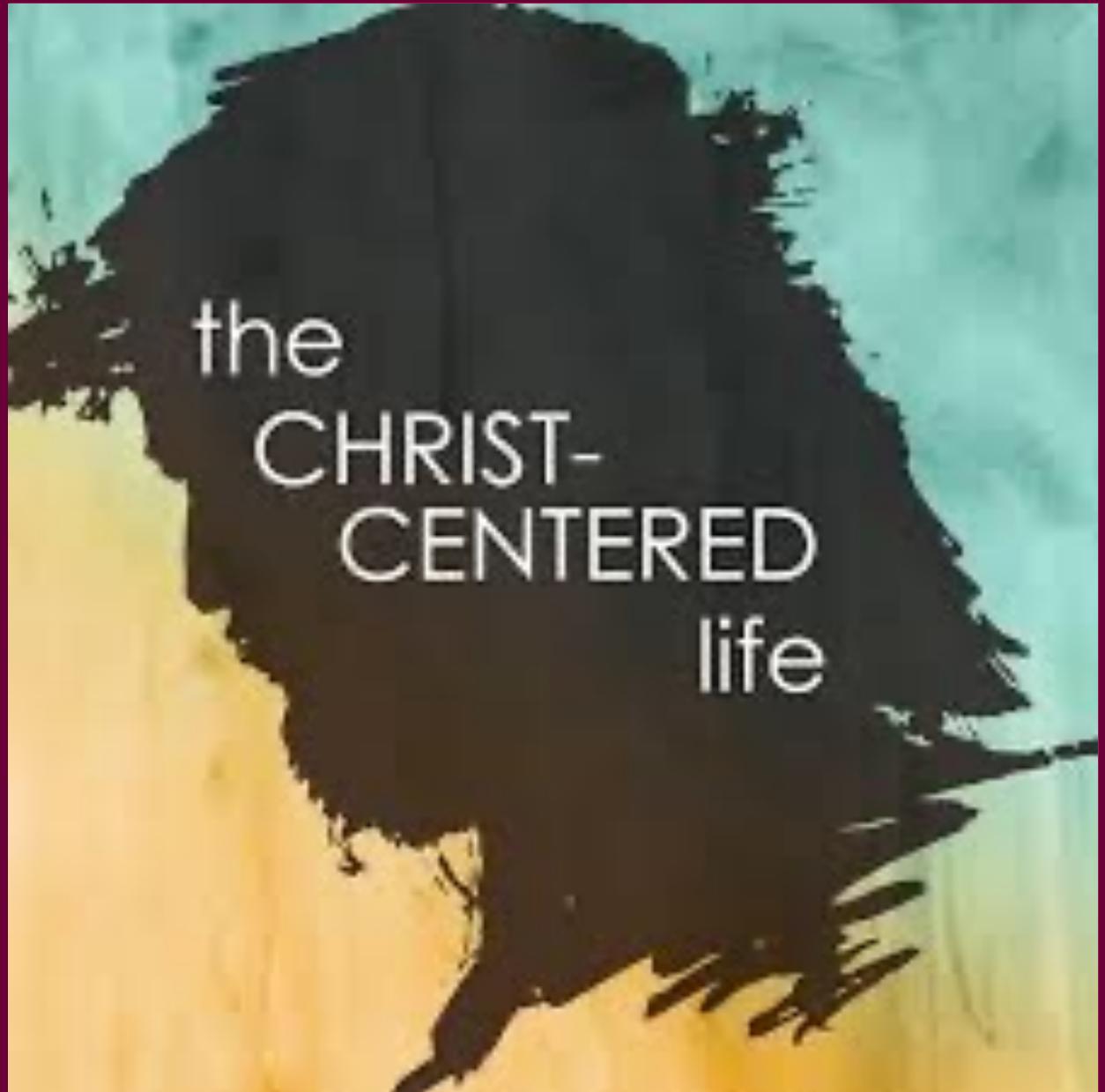


# Part 3

James 4: 11 – 17

Solid Rock Church

Pastor Elliott Anderson



# Opposite of Christ-centered life?

## Self-Centered life!

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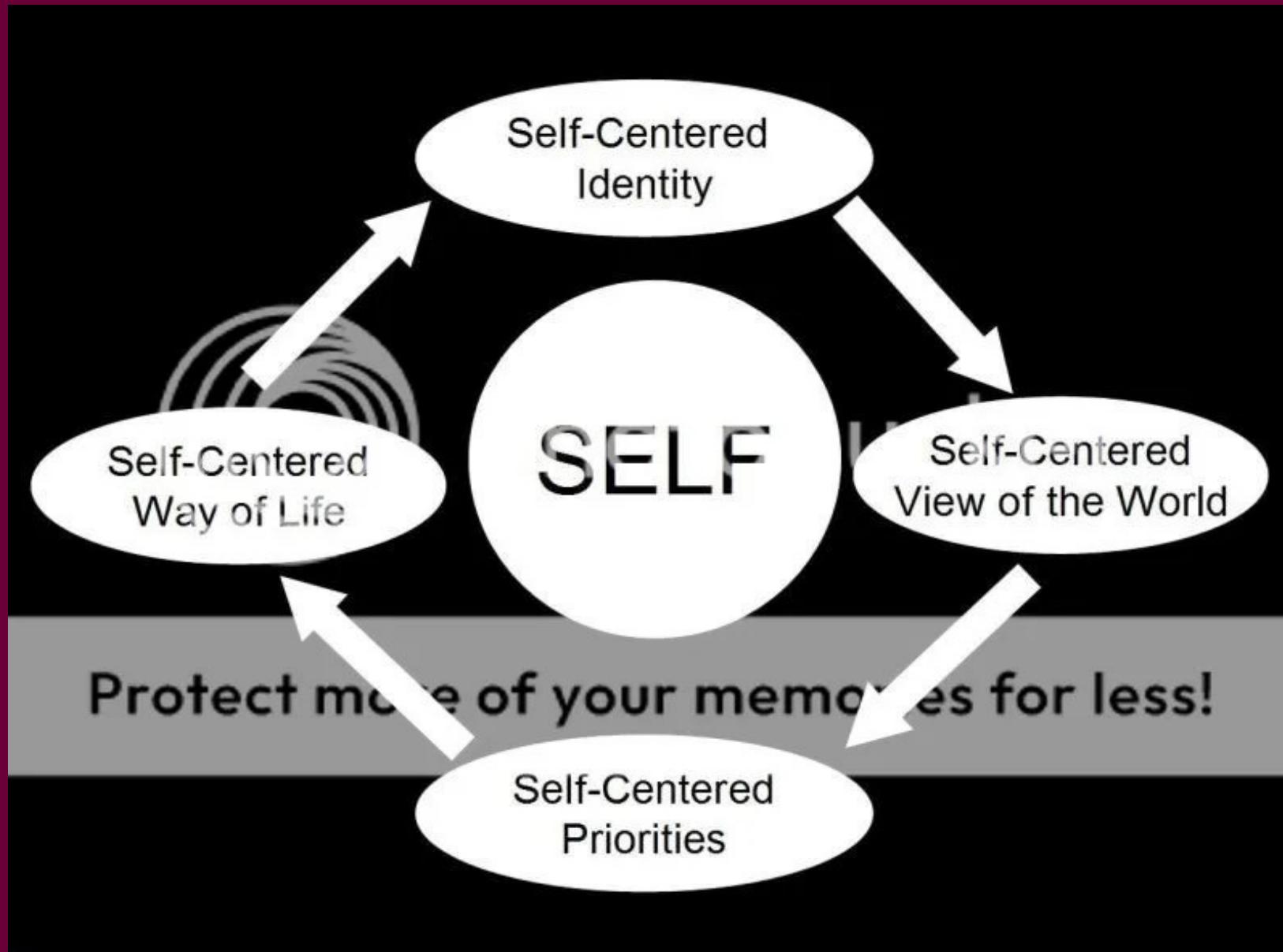
**Philippians 2: 3,** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

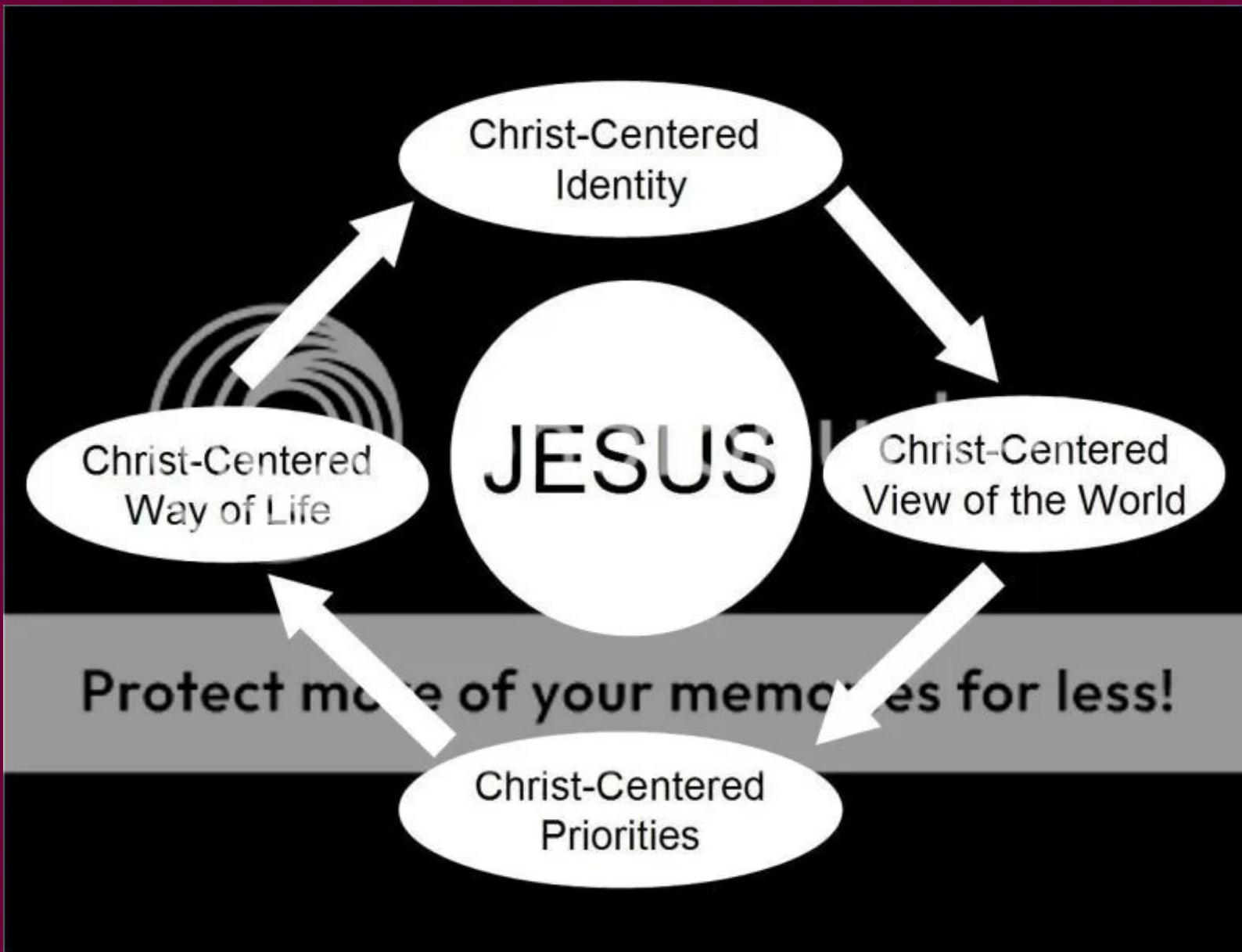
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**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10: 24,** No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

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**Proverbs 18: 1,** An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels





# James 4: Christ Centered Life (CCL) – Part 1

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Letter to believers - we are called to be like Christ and live a Christ centered life.

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Essence of sin is selfishness – rejects Christ

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Quarreling among believers is sinful – opposes Christ

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We don't pray or pray selfishly – saddens Christ

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Desire for the world opposes Christ - grieves the Spirit

## James 4: CCL – Part 2

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We receive grace from the Lord for salvation, sanctification, obedience, and humility – God opposes the proud.

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We live in the world but are not to be of the world.

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The lust of the flesh and eyes, and our pride of life are worldly.

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We submit to God, resist the devil, and continually seek Him.

# James 4: 11 – 17 Continued CCL Direction

What happens when we are not humble, don't repent, and don't seek God?      We condemn – not love others...

**James 4: 11** – 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.

# *To Speak Against*

To speak down to, or poorly of someone

To verbally attack in public – in private – or to retaliate verbally

**Ephesians 4: 29**, Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful for building others up** according to their needs.



# *Speaking Against is Judgment*

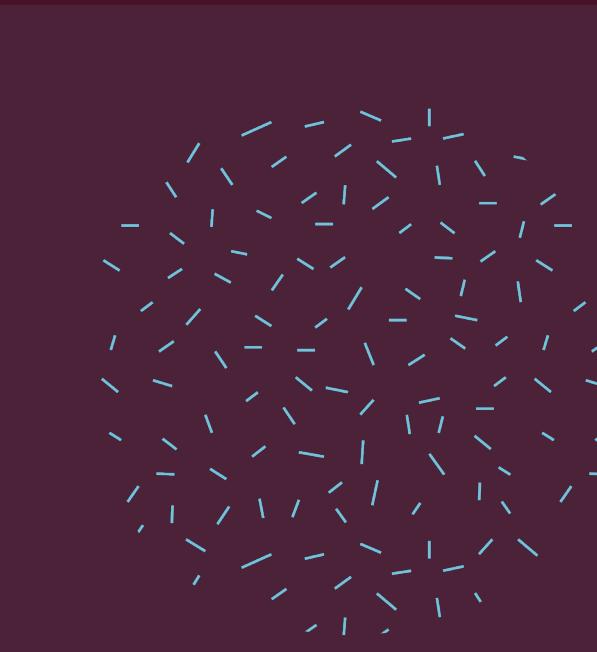
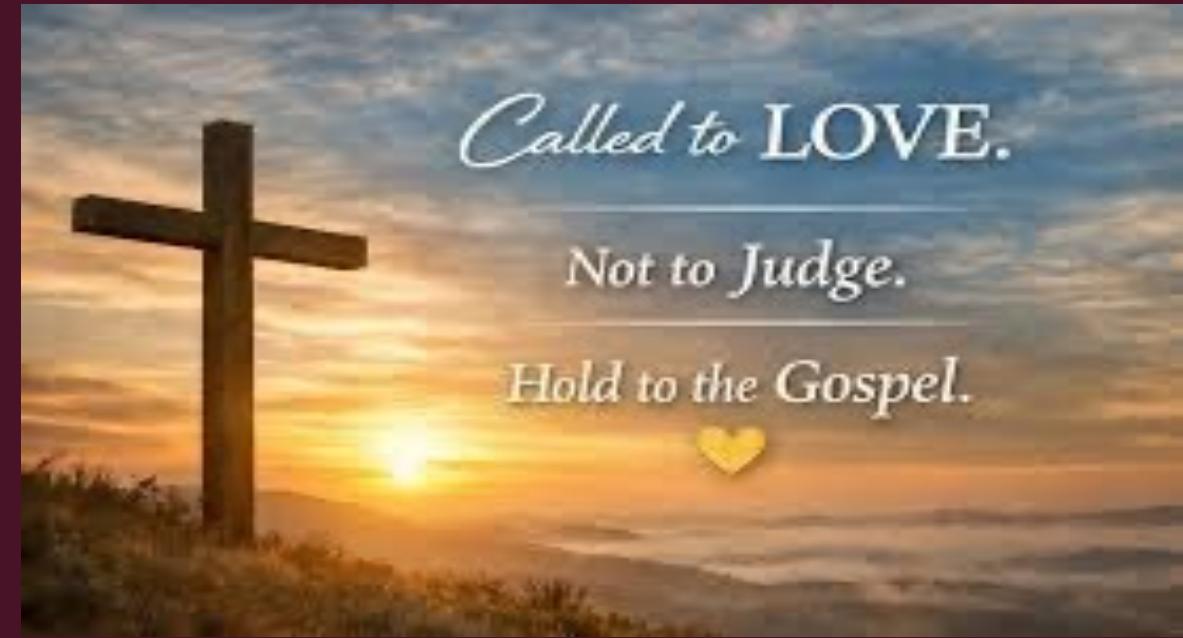
If you speak against a brother, you are passing judgment on them – who's law are you following?      Man or God's?

**Matthew 7:1**, 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.

**Romans 14: 13**, Let us not judge each other anymore.

James says to judge a brother's conduct is to be arrogantly above Christ's law of love.

**Galatians 5: 14 – 16,** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit...



# How Do We Confront in Christ Centered Life?

To speak for, not against.

**Time:** when good for both

**Tenor:** fruit of the spirit led

**Tone:** as if you are speaking  
to a child of God



# Navigating Disagreements

blessing and encouraging, not winning and defeating

being righteous, not being right

understanding their position not defending yours

gaining greater connection and commitment



# Speaking for each other not against

**Galatians 6: 1,** 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.

**2 Timothy 2: 24-25,** And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

# Only One Judge!

**James 4: 12**, There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

To speak against others in the Body - is to judge others – and to act as God – it's **blasphemy!**



# Blasphemy Definition

Speaking or acting in a way that shows contempt or disrespect for God's authority and truth; insulting God's name or character by your words or actions.

**Colossians 3:8**, But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

# Who Did Jesus Judge Speak Against?

**1. Pharisees and Scribes:**  
"hypocrites," "blind guides,"  
they focused on outward ritual  
over inward righteousness

**2. Sadducees (Chief Priests):**  
"dead wrong," corrupting the  
Temple, and holding authority  
and power without God's truth



# Who Did Jesus Judge Speak Against?

**3. Disciples:** When they were arrogant, prideful, ambitious, petty, bigoted, racist, defiant, hardheaded, or ignorant.

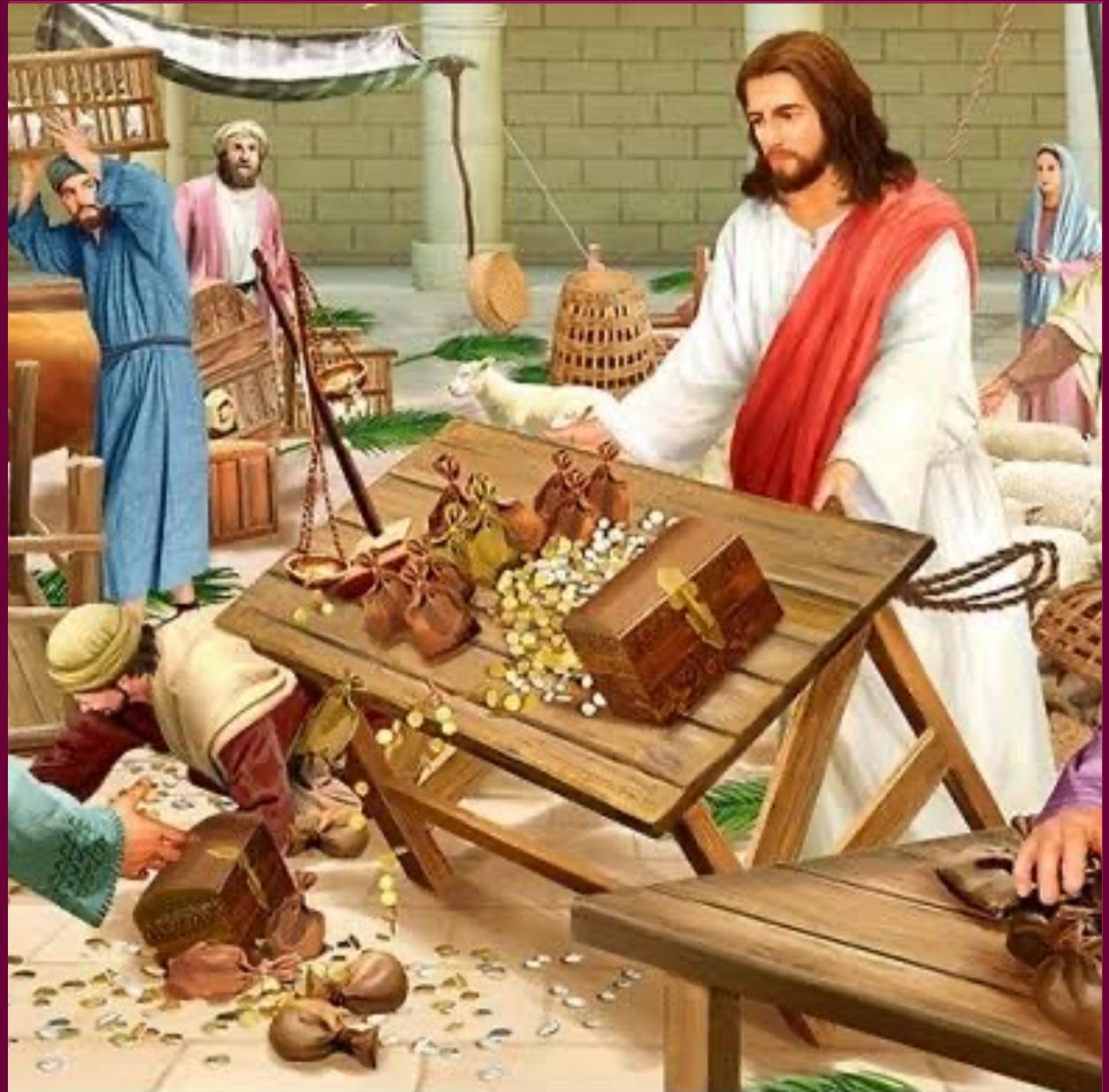
**4. Cities that Rejected His Message:** pronounced woes on Chorazin and Bethsaida for refusing to repent.



# Who Did Jesus Judge Speak Against?

**5. Money Changers:** drove out of the Temple for turning a house of prayer into a "den of robbers"

**6. Unbelieving Israel:** rebuked for lack of faith, specifically calling them a "faithless and twisted generation"



# Reasons Christ Judged and Spoke Against

**Hypocrisy:** people acting holy while being corrupt internally

**Blocking the Gospel:** people making it harder for others to experience God's grace, forgiveness, love, peace, hope, and encouragement

**Misleading Others:** leading people away from truth through false teaching, arrogant idolatry, manipulative practices, selfish ambition.

# Who Didn't Jesus Judge and Speak Against?

**Romans:** their government,  
military, or leaders

**Sinners:** prostitutes, tax collectors,  
or thieves

**Least of These:** lepers, crippled,  
mute, dumb, or blind

**Foreigners:** Samaritans, Greeks, etc

# Presumption is as Bad as Judging

**Presumption:** acting arrogantly by taking liberties, speaking or acting without God's authorization, or wrongly assuming God's favor, often stemming from pride or self-deception.

**James 4: 13 - 14,** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

# **Come now...**

*Trade and make a profit.*

Our pursuit of financial gain  
is easily the most significant  
issue that causes spiritual  
presumption.

**Proverbs 27: 1,** Do not boast  
about tomorrow, for you do  
not know what a day may  
bring.

not let your heart be  
inclined to money.

let your heart be filled  
with Godly desires.



# *What is Your Life?*

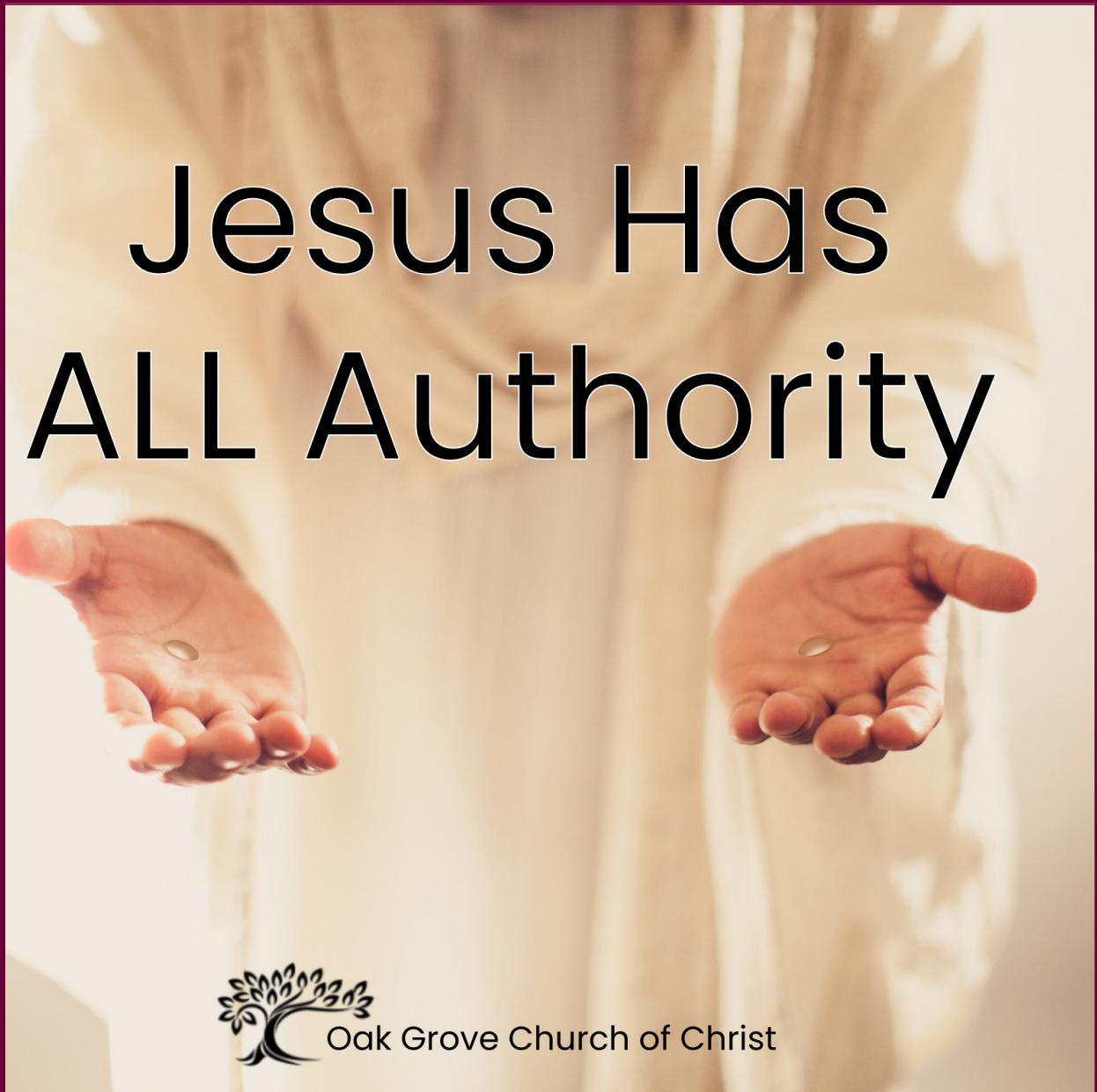
James was not minimizing our role in Kingdom work.  
He is reminding us who has authority over our life!

**Jeremiah 10: 23,** I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

**Matthew 16: 25,** For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it...

**Proverbs 19: 21**, Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

**Colossians 1: 17 – 18**, And Christ is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.



Oak Grove Church of Christ

# The Lord's Will is our Will for Our Life

**James 4: 15,** Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

We do our best to plan and organize our lives and church.

We plan in step with God's principles and practices.

We live a Christ-centered life; through the Holy Spirit.

We follow God's will, not our will.

# Submit Our Plans to God

No movements, activities, or processes that are contradictory to God's Word or His principles of living.

**James 1: 22,** ...doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

**John 14: 15,** If you love me, you will keep my commandments.



Self-centered  
will is evil...

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**James 4: 16 - 17, As it is you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.**

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The basic evil is arrogance, pride, quarrelling, worldliness, and selfishness; and failing to pray, to serve, and to love – choosing our will over God's will.

# Christ-centered Will is Necessary for a CCL

**Romans 13: 8,** Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

**John 4: 34,** Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.”

**Psalm 40: 8,** I delight to do your will, O My God, your law is in my heart.

# Types of Sin in James 4

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**Sins of commission:** quarreling, hating, judging, gossiping

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**Sins of omission:** not praying, not loving, not giving

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Both types of sin are irresponsible and lead to a self-centered life.

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**Romans 14: 23,** Whatever is not from faith is sin...

# Absolute Responsibility for a CCL

The obligation placed on us as followers of Christ is to live by the law of love and to have a Christ-centered life!

**Micah 6: 8**, He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

