

2017... is the year to “GROW”

Words are important.

(Proverbs 18:21) “Life and death are in the power of the tongue.”

Slander = Critical words that are damaging to a persons reputation.

*(Leviticus 19:16) “Do not spread **slanderous** gossip among your people.”*

*(Psalm 101:5) “I will not tolerate people who **slander** their neighbors.”*

*(Proverbs 20:19) “A **gossip** tells secrets, so don't hang around with someone who talks too much.”*

*(1 Peter 2:1) put aside “all malice and guile and hypocrisy and envy and all **slander**.”*

*(Colossians 3:8) “...put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, **slander** and abusive speech from your mouth.”*

*(Ephesians 4:31), “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and **slander** be put away from you, along with all malice.”*

3 concerns that James is addressing:

1. How you see _____ & what you _____ about them!

(James 4:11 NLT) “Don't speak evil against each other, don't say cruel things about others, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law.”

(Matthew 7:1 NASV) “Do not judge, lest you be judged.”

Q - When you look at people, what do you _____.

(Ephesians 4:29) “Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

(James 4:12) “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 who judge your neighbor?”

- **The principle is _____.**

2. How you see _____ & who's in _____!

(James 4:13-16) “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.” But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”

God needs to be in control of our lives:

- Without God - we are _____.
- Without God - our lives are _____.

3. How you see _____ & what you _____ about it!

(James 4:17) “Therefore, to one who knows the right to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

2 Types of SIN:

- Sin of _____.
- Sin of _____.

(Roman 6:23) “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3 ways to embrace humility:

1st remember that you're not in a position to pass judgment on anyone!

2nd keep God in the center of your plans!

3rd never ignore the opportunity to obey God's word & do good!

Application – How can I apply these truths to help me grow?

_____.