

Jas 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. (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? (ESV)

Jas 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: KJV

Speaking the word of God is not speaking evil.

Misrepresenting someone is evil – slander.

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

Mat 7:1-2 “Judge not, that you be not judged. (2)  
For with the judgment you pronounce you will be  
judged, and with the measure you use it will be  
measured to you.

What measure shall we use?

Joh 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge  
with right judgment.”

Our standard of measure, for which we will receive no Godly rebuke, is His word.

Joh 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

We are not to judge a brother unjustly or who is weak

Rom 14:3-5 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. (4) Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

What is our responsibility to any Christian who is  
in error?

2Jn 1:9-11 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (10) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (11) for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Eze 3:17-19 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. (18) If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (19) But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

Now we are not prophets like Ezekiel. However,  
we have been appointed to warn.

2Ti 2:1-2 You then, my child, be strengthened by  
the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you  
have heard from me in the presence of many  
witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able  
to teach others also.

Men – anthropos – i.e., persons  
anyone who is faithful!



What if we have not observed this doctrinal error personally?

1Cor 1:10-11 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. (11) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

If someone tells us we are in error about what is being taught to other Christians, we need to know how they know no error is being taught.

What is our responsibility to those where error is being taught?

Eph 5:8-11 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (9) (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), (10) and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (11) Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

2Pe 3:15-16 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, (16) as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

If you hear of others teaching things contrary to God's word, they are doomed to destruction!

If you do not warn someone they are twisting the Scriptures, they may just be ignorant, but they are doomed to destruction.

If you do not warn someone they are twisting the Scriptures, they may be unstable, but they are doomed to destruction.

Unstable = vacillating = ASV unstedfast

Gal 1:6-8 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— (7) not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

# What is fellowship?

Does one church have fellowship with another?

1Jn 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Our fellowship is with God and then with all others who have fellowship with God.

Do local congregations have fellowship with one another?

Not in the Bible.



Php 4:15 And ye yourselves also know, ye Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church had fellowship with me in the matter of giving and receiving but ye only; (ASV)

shared with me (NIV, NAS)  
entered into partnership with me (ESV)

The elders of one church do not feed the another flock – they aren't in that assembly.

Act 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Tit 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

1Pe 5:1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: (2) shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; (3) not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock

When we say churches of Christ are independent  
– autonomous, we are saying there is no national  
or international headquarters on earth.

1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd appears,  
you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

There are shepherds and there is but one “chief Shepherd” – Jesus Christ

But that does not mean that every faithful Christian has no responsibility to teach others.

2Ti 2:1-2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Act 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.













