

How to Quit Playing God

Developing a Faith That Works - Part 11

James 4:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹ Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?

WE'RE PLAYING GOD WHEN WE JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE

I . WHY DO WE LIKE TO JUDGE OTHERS?

1. To EXCUSE our own FAULTS.

"So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them, and yet do the same thing, do you think you will escape God's judgement?" Romans 2:3

2. It APPEALS to our PRIDE.

"Gossip is so tasty! How we love to swallow it!" Prov. 26:22 (GN)

II . WHY SHOULD I NOT JUDGE OTHERS?

*** It is UNCHRISTIAN**

"Brothers do not slander ... anyone who speaks against his brother or judges his brother ... "

*** It is UNLOVING**

"Anyone who ... judges, speaks against the law ..." (vs. 11)

See James 2:8

*** It is UNJUSTIFIED**

"There is only one Lawgiver and Judge ... who are you to judge your neighbor?"

III. WHEN IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS?

1. When I'm **PRACTICING** the same **SIN**. (Rom. 2:1-3)
2. When it **BLINDS** me to my own **FAULTS**. (Matt. 7:3-5)
3. When I draw **CONCLUSIONS** based on **OUTWARD** appearance . (John 7:24)
4. When you **CONDEMN** somebody before you hear the **FACTS**. (John 7:51)
5. Their **SPIRITUALITY**, on the basis of **EXTERNALS**, religious observances. (Col. 2:16)
6. When it causes you to **SPEAK** evil about another **CHRISTIAN**. (James 4:11)
7. When we judge people's **MOTIVES**. (1 Cor. 4:5)

IV. HOW TO BREAK THE HABIT OF JUDGING OTHERS

1. Remember that I'll be **JUDGED** by the same standards that I use to judge **OTHER PEOPLE**.

"Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others." Matt. 7:1-2

2. Remember that each of us is **ACCOUNTABLE** to God.

"Every one of us, then, will have to give an account of himself to God. So then, let us stop judging one another." Rom. 14:12-13

3. Remember how much God has been **MERCIFUL** to me.

"... Mercy triumphs over judgement." James 2:13

Parable of Unforgiving Servant -- Matt. 18:21-35