

HOW TO QUIT PLAYING GOD
Developing a Faith That Works
James 4:11-12

James 4:11-12

“Do not speak against one another, brethren; he who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; 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?”

WE'RE PLAYING GOD WHEN WE judge others!

I. WHY DO WE LIKE TO JUDGE OTHERS?

1. to avoid the condemnation of our own sin

“ Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” Rom 2:1

2. to feed our selfish egos

“..Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye?”

II. WHY SHOULD I NOT JUDGE OTHERS IN THE CHURCH?

- * It is speaking against a family member
“Brothers do not slander ... anyone who speaks against his brother or judges his brother judges the law ” James 1:
- * It is speaking contrary to the Word of God
“Anyone who ... judges, speaks against the law ...” (vs. 11)
- * It is taking the place of God
“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge ... who are you to judge your neighbor?”

III. WHEN IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS? WHEN-

1. I am guilty of what I judge them for doing (Rom. 2:1-3)
2. I am blind to my own faults (Matt. 7:3-5)

3. I am drawing conclusions on outward appearances (John 7:24)
4. I am speaking before I have heard the whole story (John 7:51)
5. I use diet, drink or days to judge spirituality (Col. 2:16)
6. I am led to speak evil things of another (James 4:11)
7. I do not understand what the Lord is doing (1 Cor. 4:5)

IV. HOW TO BREAK THE HABIT OF JUDGING OTHERS

1. Remember God will judge us in the same manner we judge others
"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 we will each have a personal review with the Lord
"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 the mercy shown to us
"... Mercy triumphs over judgment." James 2:13