

James 4:11-17

Playing God

October 17, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

1. Playing God With Others

James 4:12 - There is only one Lawgiver and Judge. He alone has the power to save or destroy. So who are you to judge your neighbor?

v. 11 - Don't speak evil of one another, brethren.

Ephesians 4:29 - Don't let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but *only* what is helpful for *building others up*.

Romans 12:3 - Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather be sober (honest) in your evaluation of yourself.

Luke 18:10-12 - “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I'm not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and pay tithes of all I possess.’”

1 Samuel 17:11 - When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified.

1 Samuel 17:28 - Now when David’s oldest brother Eliab heard him speaking to the men, his anger burned against David. “Why have you come down here?” he asked. “And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and wickedness of heart—you have come down to see the battle!”

Psalms 101:5 - Whoever slanders his neighbor... I'll destroy.

Luke 18:13-14 - “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you, this man, rather than the Pharisee, went home justified.

1 Cor. 5:11 - But now I'm writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or *slanderer*, a drunkard or swindler. Don't even eat with such people.

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Galatians 6:1 - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a *sin*, (not "if someone is doing something differently than you'd like) you who live by the Spirit should restore that person *gently*.

2. Playing God With Ourselves

v. 13 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we'll go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”

v. 14 - You don't know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It's even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

v. 15-17 - Instead you ought to say, “If *the Lord wills*, we shall live and do this or that.”¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to *do good* and doesn't do it, to him it is sin.

1. Pray

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2. Plan with God in mind.

3. Submit daily to His direction.

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Two Ways We Play God:

1. We play God with _____.

Ephesians 4:29 - Don't let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for *building others up*.

Romans 12:3 - Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather be sober (honest) in your evaluation of yourself.

Psalms 101:5 - Whoever slanders his neighbor... I'll destroy.

1 Cor. 5:11 - You that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or *slanderer*, a drunkard or swindler. Don't even eat with such people.

Galatians 6:1 - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a *sin*, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person *gently*.

2. Playing God with _____.

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Closing Thoughts:

1. _____

2. Plan with _____.

3. Submit daily to _____.