

# PRESSURE POINTS

## A Study of the Book of James

### Part 8

## Stop Playing God

*James 4:11 (NLT) Don't speak evil against each other (slander), dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. 12 God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?*

**WE'RE PLAYING GOD WHEN WE \_\_\_\_\_.**

### WHY DO WE JUDGE OTHERS?

**1. TO EXCUSE OUR \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

**2. TO APPEAL TO OUR \_\_\_\_\_.**

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

*(NCV) The words of a gossip are like tasty bits of food; people like to gobble them up.*

### WHY SHOULD I NOT JUDGE OTHERS?

**1. IT'S \_\_\_\_\_.**

*v11 "dear brothers and sisters do not slander one another... anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law."*

*John 8:44 "The devil is the father of lies."*

**2. IT'S \_\_\_\_\_.**

*v11 "he who judges... speaks against the Law..."*

*James 2:8 "Whenever I judge you, I'm breaking the Law."*

*James 2:8 "If you really keep the Royal Law found in Scripture love your neighbor as yourself."*

**3. IT'S \_\_\_\_\_.**

*v12 (NCV) God is the only Lawmaker (lawgiver) and Judge. He is the only One who can save and destroy. So it is not right for you to judge your neighbor.*

### WHEN IS IT WRONG TO JUDGE OTHERS?

*Romans 2:1 "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things."*

*Matthew 7:3-5 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother 'Let me take the speck out of your eye' when there's a plank in your own eye. You hypocrite! First take the plank out of your own eye and then you can see clearly to remove the speck in your brother's eye."*

*John 7:24 "Stop judging by mere appearance and make a right judgement."*

*I Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider (judge) his appearance or his height...The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

### HOW DO I BREAK THE HABIT OF JUDGING OTHERS?

**1. Remember that I'll be judged by the same standards that I use to judge other people.**

*Matthew 7:1-2 "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."*

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

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

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

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