

The Study of James: Contend for the Faith **A Call to Practical Maturity - James 4:11-17**

The Judgment of Others:

"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?"
(James 4:11-12)

1) Punitive judgment.

- A final verdict has been _____.
- The judgment is based on _____, not God's Word.
- The judge doesn't _____ the Word of God.

2) Non-punitive judgment.

- The judge has a heart of _____. James 5:15
- The judge has a heart to _____. James 5:16
- The judge has a heart to _____. James 5:19
- The judge has a heart to _____. James 5:20

The Judgment of God's Will:

"13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."
(James 4:13-17)

1) Presumptuous planning. (James 4:13-14)

Notice that the presumptuous planner plans: location, time, success, and control.

2) Spiritual planning. (James 4:15-17)

- Submission to the _____.
- Submission to the _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss with your group the right and wrong ways to judge others.
(James 4:11-12 and James 5:15-20)
2. Why does James expose the presumptuous planner as a sinner?
(James 4:13-16)
3. In what ways does the spiritual planner submit to God? And why is this important?
(James 4:15-17)