

A Study of the
book of

James

Is your faith visible?

James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.

James 4

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

James 4

11 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.

12 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?

Proverbs 6

**16 There are six things that the Lord hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:**

**17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,**

**18 a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,**

**19 a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.**

We should judge:

- 1. Those we seek to influence or allow to influence us (Matt. 7:6 & 15-20)**

Matthew 7

1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them.

We should judge:

- 1. Those we seek to influence or allow to influence us (Matt. 7:6 & 15-20)**
- 2. When someone we love is in sin or is being deceived in some way (Matt. 18:15 Rom. 16:17)**

Matthew 18:15 If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

James 5: 19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, **20** remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

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

We should judge:

- 1. Those we seek to influence or allow to influence us (Matt. 7:6 & 15-20)**
- 2. When someone we love is in sin or is being deceived in some way (Matt. 18:15 Rom. 16:17)**
- 3. To evaluate a person's spiritual maturity for serving in a ministry role (Titus 1:5-9 1 Tim. 3:1-13)**
- 4. To discern between good and evil, sin and righteousness (Eph. 5:8-17)**

We should NOT judge:

- 1. When my motive is anything but love for the other person**
- 2. When I assume to know their motivations or all the important facts of a situation**
- 3. When I am judging based on human standards rather than on God's Word (Mark 7:5-8)**
- 4. When I have not dealt with my sin before pointing out someone else's (Matt. 7:1-5 Rom. 2:1-3)**
- 5. When I make an authoritative pronouncement about a person's eternal destiny**
- 6. When I am judging people outside of the church**

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When we speak against one another....

We are not considering how strongly God feels
about His children

Matthew 18

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

Matthew 18

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

7“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

Matthew 18

8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. 9 "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.

Matthew 18

10“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 18

12“What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13“If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14“So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

Matthew 18

15“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16“But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** 17“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

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When we speak against one another....

We are not considering that we not only breaking God's law but have placed ourselves above it

James 4

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When we speak against one another....
We are not considering that we are placing
ourselves above God

Accordingly it (sin) and its acts are expressed by names of enmity and acts of hostility, such as walking contrary to God, rebelling against God, rising up against God, striving and contending with God, despising God, hating God, resisting God, fighting God, blaspheming God. And in short, it is atheism, it is saying there is no God. It goes about to ungod God. It is God murder,"

Ralph Vining – 'The Plague of Plagues'

1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

1 John 2:9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10** Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

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