

**James: A Fruitful Faith
When We Play Judge**



James 4:11-12

January 18, 2026

Pride wants the _____

Watch how you _____ about _____

Stop _____ like you're the _____

How we _____ into the _____

1. We judge _____
2. We judge _____
3. We judge _____
4. We judge _____
5. We judge through _____

The _____ of playing _____

1. _____ breaks
2. _____ breaks
3. _____ breaks

_____, don't _____

Letting God be _____ brings _____

Move from _____ to _____

Questions to think about...

1. What kinds of critique or judging do Christians tend to justify as harmless?
2. Speaking against a brother or sister is more than just unkind — it puts us in judgment over them. Why do you think that's such a temptation for us?
3. What usually drives our judging of other believers — frustration, insecurity, comparison, pride, a desire for control?
4. How do you personally draw the line between discernment and judgment?
5. James says when we judge others, we're "judging the law." In what ways do we functionally say, "This command doesn't apply to this situation"?
6. What burden do we carry when we try to act as judges in people's lives?
7. James ends with the question: "Who are you to judge your neighbor?" What changes when we see people as neighbors instead of defendants?
8. Where do you personally tend to move into the "judge's seat" — motives, behavior, maturity, appearance, theology, parenting, politics, etc.?
9. What's one relationship or situation this week where you could practice stepping off the throne and letting God handle the verdicts?