

THE PERILS OF “PLAYING GOD”

James 4:11–17

As James closes this fourth chapter of his letter, he deals directly with one of the most common yet inappropriate games Christians like to play: “Playing God.” Having just confronted our tendency to be quarrelsome and argumentative (4:1–10), James now digs deeper into two ways we assert an arrogant spirit. As we’ll see, the first has to do with how we play the role of God in *others’ lives* as we criticize and judge them (4:11–12) . . . and the second has to do with our habit of taking the place of God in *our own lives*, which occurs when we presume and boast in ourselves (4:13–16).

I. When “Playing God” with Others (vv. 11–12)

- The objective

- The rules

- The evaluation

II. When “Playing God” with Ourselves (vv. 13–16)

- The objective

- The rules

- The evaluation

III. When You Decide to Stop “Playing God” (v. 17)