

## A FAITH THAT KEEPS ME FROM PLAYING GOD IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't - Part 19

Rick Warren  
August 8-9, 2020

*"Brothers and sisters, never say bad things about each other. Anytime you speak against fellow believers or you judge and bad-mouth them, you judge and condemn God's Law! And when you judge God's Law you aren't keeping it yourself! Instead, you set yourself up as the Judge! Remember, God is the only true Lawgiver and Judge! He alone has the authority to save or to destroy. So then, who are you? And what gives you the right to pass judgment on others?" James 4:11-12*

### WHY ARE WE SO QUICK TO JUDGE OTHERS?

**1. GUILT: WE WANT TO** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"When you, a mere human, pass judgment on others, do you think that by pointing your finger at others you will distract God from seeing all your misdoings and keep him from judging you?"*  
Romans 2:3 (MSG/NIV)

**2. PRIDE: WE WANT TO** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Job: "You are trying to make yourselves look better than me by using my disgrace as an argument against me." Job 19:5 (GW)*

### WHY SHOULD I NOT JUDGE OTHERS?

**1. JUDGING OTHERS IS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"The Royal Law found in the Scripture is 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself!' If you obey this law, you do the right thing." James 2:8*

*"Anytime you speak against fellow believers, or you judge or bad-mouth them, you judge and condemn God's Law!" James 4:11*

**2. JUDGING OTHERS IS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Remember, God is the only true Lawgiver and Judge! He alone has the authority to save or to destroy. So then, who are you? And what gives you the right to pass judgment on others?" James 4:12*

*"Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own Master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4 (NIV)*

**3. JUDGING OTHERS IS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him!" John 3:17 (NCV)*  
HOW CAN I LEARN TO BE LESS JUDGMENTAL?

**1. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"We should never dare to classify or compare ourselves like those who rate themselves so highly. How foolish they are! They make up their own standards to measure themselves by, and then judge themselves by their own standards!" 2 Corinthians 10:12*

**2. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"It is shameful and stupid to decide before knowing the facts!"*  
Proverbs 18:13  
Jesus: "Stop judging by appearances." John 7:24 (NIV)

**3. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like except that person himself." 1 Corinthians 2:11 (LB)*

*"Therefore judge no one before the appointed time; wait till the Lord returns. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and he will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive the right praise from God." 1 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV)*

**4. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: "Why are you so concerned about a speck of sawdust in someone else's eye when you have a huge log in your own eye? How dare you say, 'Let me get that speck out of your eye!' . . . Instead judge yourself and first remove the log in your own eye so you can see clearly to help others." Matthew 7:3-5

*"If we judged ourselves in the right way, God would not judge us."*  
1 Corinthians 11:31 (NCV)

**5. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicodemus: "According to God's Law we cannot judge people before listening to them and hearing what they've done." John 7:51

**6. REMEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus: "Do not judge others, or YOU too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged! And with the same measure you use, YOU will be measured!" Matthew 7:1-2

*"You have no right to criticize your brother or look down on him. Remember, each of us will stand personally before the Judgment Seat of God... Yes, each of us will have to give an account of himself to God. So then, don't criticize each other anymore!"*

Romans 14:10, 12-13

## 7. REMEMBER

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*"It is by free grace that you are saved and delivered from judgment through your faith. And this salvation is not of your own doing. It is God's gift to you!" Ephesians 2:8*

## A FAITH FOR FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 20

Rick Warren

August 15-16, 2020

**"No one** knows what will happen in the future and there is **no one** who can tell us." Ecclesiastes 8:7

**"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to a certain city and we will stay there a year. We will open up a business there and we will make a profit.' But you don't even know what will happen tomorrow! And your life is as brief and uncertain as the mist of a morning fog. It's here a little while, but then it disappears! So instead, what you ought to say is, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live long enough to do this or that.' Otherwise you are just boasting and bragging about yourself, and that kind of pride is wrong and evil. But remember, anytime you know the right and good thing to do, but you don't do it, then you sin."** James 4:13-17

### 3 MISTAKES WE MAKE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THE SOLUTION FOR EACH ONE

1. WE \_\_\_\_\_  
**"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow WE WILL go to a certain city and WE WILL stay there a year. WE WILL open up a business there and WE WILL make a profit.'" James 4:13**

- TO HAVE GOD'S BLESSING, \_\_\_\_\_
- KEY 1: \_\_\_\_\_

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understanding. In all your plans acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."** Proverbs 3:5-6

**"If you want to know what God wants you to do, just ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a generous supply of wisdom to all who ask him."** James 1:5 (LB)

**David prayed: "I'll run the course you lay out for me if you'll just show me how."** Psalm 119:32 (MSG)

2. WE \_\_\_\_\_  
**"But you don't even know what will happen tomorrow! And your life is as brief and uncertain as the mist of a morning fog. It's here a little while, but**

**then it disappears! So instead, what you ought to say is, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live to do this or that.' Otherwise you are just boasting and bragging about yourself, and that kind of pride is wrong and evil."**

James 4:14-16

- KEY 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Jesus: "Don't worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own!" Matthew 6:34 (LB)**

**"Don't brashly brag about what you're going to do tomorrow because you don't know the first thing about tomorrow!" Proverbs 27:1 (MSG)**

3. WE \_\_\_\_\_  
**"But remember, anytime you know the right and good thing to do, but you don't do it, then you sin." James 4:17**

### HOMEWORK QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is the next step of spiritual growth and obedience I need to take?
2. What do I know God wants me to do, but I'm still putting off?
3. What excuse have I been hiding behind?

WHATEVER IT IS . . . DO IT NOW!

**"We can be sure we know Christ IF we obey his commands. The one who says, 'I know him,' but doesn't do what he commands is a liar."**

1 John 2:3-4

**THIS WEEK: Take 30 minutes to prayerfully write down your plan for the rest of this year.**

**Pray: Father, what do YOU want me to do during this time?**  
(Personal Growth, Family, Services, Finances, etc.)

**"We should make plans – counting on God to direct us."**

Proverbs 16:9 (LB)

## A FAITH THAT REDUCES QUARRELING

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 21

Rick Warren

August 22-23, 2020

Definition: Quarrel – “A heated argument, typically about a trivial issue, between people who are usually on good terms.”

*“What causes quarrels and arguments with each other? They come from the conflicting selfish desires that are always fighting inside you. You want things you don't have so you're ready to kill to get them! And you covet what others have but you can't get it, so you quarrel and get in fights. But you don't have, because you don't ask God for it. And if you ask, you don't receive it because you ask with the wrong motivation – you only want what gives you pleasure. You cheat on God when you have an affair with what the world values. To love what the world loves is to hate God and to be the enemy of God! This is what the Scripture means when it says that God's Spirit who lives inside us is intensely jealous. He wants our exclusive love. That's why he gives us so much grace! As Scripture says, 'God opposes the prideful but gives his grace to the humble.' So, give yourselves completely to God! Then resist the devil, and he'll flee from you. If you draw close to God, he will draw close to you. Wash your hands of your sins, and purify your heart of your double-minded living. Be sad and sorry and grieve over your actions. Stop laughing at your sin and get serious about it. If you humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up!” James 4:1-10*

### WHAT CAUSES QUARRELS?

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*“What causes quarrels and arguments with each other? They come from the conflicting selfish desires that are always fighting inside you.” James 4:1*

*“Our sinful desires want what is opposite of God's Spirit, and God's Spirit wants what is contrary to our sinful desires. So the two are constantly fighting each other, so you cannot just do whatever you please.” Galatians 5:17*

### WHAT WILL HELP ME QUARREL LESS?

1. REALIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Quarreling, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives!” Ephesians 4:31b (LB)*

Quarreling is a Mark of Immaturity:

*“You are still only baby Christians, controlled by your own desires, not God's. When you are jealous and divide into quarreling groups, doesn't that prove you*

*are still babies, wanting your own way? In fact, you are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord at all!” 1 Corinthians 3:3 (LB)*

*“The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left.” Proverbs 11:29 (LB)*

2. DECIDE I WANT TO \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Wash your hands of your sins, and purify your heart of your double-minded living. Be sad and sorry and grieve over your actions. Stop laughing at your sin and get serious about it.” James 4:8b-9*

3. STOP \_\_\_\_\_ TO FULFILL NEEDS IN MY LIFE THAT ONLY GOD CAN FULFILL

*“You don't have, BECAUSE you don't ask God for it. And if you ask, you don't receive it because you ask with the wrong motivation...” James 4:2b-3*

*“You cheat on God when you have an affair with what the world values. To love what the world loves is to hate God and to be the enemy of God! This is what the Scripture means when it says that God's Spirit who lives inside us is intensely jealous. He wants our faithful love. That's why he gives us so much grace!” James 4:4-6a*

4. CHOOSE \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Pride only leads to quarrels.” Proverbs 13:10*

*“As Scripture says, 'God opposes the prideful but gives his grace to the humble.' So, give yourselves completely to God!” James 4:6b-7*

*“If you humble yourself before the Lord, he will lift you up!” James 4:10*

5. RECOGNIZE \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil.” Ephesians 4:27 (NLT)*

*“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7b (NLT)*

*“We are very aware of Satan's schemes so that he doesn't outwit us.” 2 Corinthians 2:11*

*“Get rid of all bitterness and angry rage. Never shout harsh words, insults, cursing, or any other type of rude or hurtful talk.” Ephesians 4:31*

6. TALK TO GOD \_\_\_\_\_  
*“If you draw close to God, he will draw close to you.” James 4:8a*

7. INVITE JESUS \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because as members of Christ's body, you are called to live in peace.” Colossians 3:15*

## A FAITH THAT DOESN'T HOLD ON TO HURT

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 22

Rick Warren

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### LIVING IN A CULTURE OF ANGER & BITTERNESS

“Everyone has turned from God and is going the wrong direction. Nobody is living right. People tell lies about others that stink like an open grave. They verbally attack each other with poisonous words like the venom of a deadly snake. Their speech is filled with vicious curses and bitter resentment, and they are quick to react violently with anyone who disagrees. So, wherever they go, they leave division and misery because they've never learned how to live in peace.” Romans 3:12-17

James to believers: “(In worship), we praise our Lord and Father but then (in the world) we curse the people that God himself created in his image! Out of the same mouth comes blessing and bitterness! Brothers and sisters, this is not right! There is no way that SWEET water and BITTER water can flow out of the same spring!” James 3:9-10

### WHY SHOULD I NEVER HOLD ON TO A HURT?

(THE COST OF BITTERNESS)

#### 1. ANYTIME I HARBOR A HURT, \_\_\_\_\_

“If you are angry, you cannot do ANY of the good things that God wants done!” James 1:20 (CEV)

“Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose.” James 1:20 (TEV)

#### 2. ANYTIME I RETAIN RESENTMENT, \_\_\_\_\_

“Some men stay happy until the day they die...others have no happiness at all; because they live and die with bitter hearts.” Job 21:23-25 (TEV)

#### 3. ANYTIME I BREATHE BITTERNESS, \_\_\_\_\_

“A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the resentment caused by a fool is heavier than both.” Proverbs 27:3 (NLT)

“You are only hurting yourself with your anger.” Job 18:4 (TEV)

#### 4. ANYTIME I INTERNALIZE ANGER, \_\_\_\_\_

“To worry yourself to death with resentment is a foolish, senseless thing to do.” Job 5:2 (TEV)

“All they get are days full of sadness and sorrow, and they end up sick, defeated, and angry.” Ecclesiastes 5:17 (NCV)

#### 5. ANYTIME I HOLD A GRUDGE, \_\_\_\_\_

“Look after each other so that you keep living in God's grace, being gracious to each other. See that no root of bitterness grows up among you, because if you become bitter about anything, you'll miss God's grace, and that will cause much trouble. A bitter person will poison and ruin everyone else.”

Hebrews 12:15

#### 6. ANYTIME I WON'T LET IT GO, \_\_\_\_\_

“Angry people without God pile grievance upon grievance, always blaming others for their troubles.” Job 36:13 (MSG)

“The godless are full of resentment.” Job 36:13 (NLT)

#### 7. ANYTIME I WON'T FORGIVE, \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus: “If you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:15 (NLT)

### HOW DO YOU LET GO OF A HURT?

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_

“Whenever you pray, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop – just leave it and let it go, in order that your Father in heaven may also forgive you for YOUR failings and shortcomings and let them drop.”

Mark 11:25 (Amp)

“What is needed everywhere is for people to lift their holy hands in prayer instead of having angry disputes and resentment.” 1 Timothy 2:8

“...Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that HE will repay those who deserve it!” Romans 12:19 (LB)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

“God says, ‘My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.’” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

“EVERYTHING you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:6 (GW)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful attitudes and desires to his cross and crucified them there. So now, since the Holy Spirit has given us a new life and power, let us follow His leading in every part of our

*lives. Let us not be pridefully stubborn, or irritate each other, or be jealous of each other.” Galatians 5:24-25*