

“Stop Passing Judgment On Your Neighbor”

“Who are you who judges his neighbor?”

**Important Biblical Truths
Concerning the Judgment of Others
in God’s Church**

James 4:11-12

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

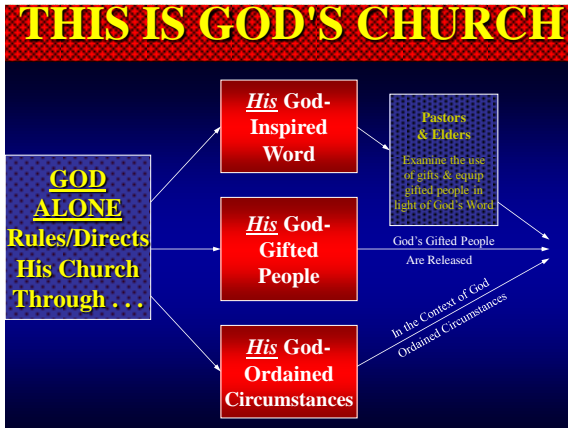
➤ **The progression of the argument so far**

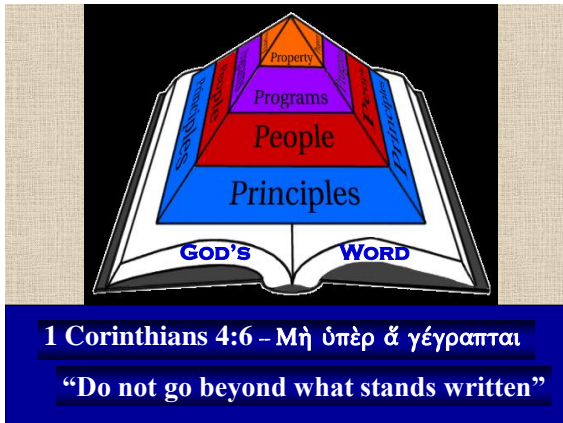
I. The Principle is Set Forth – 1 Cor. 4:1-6

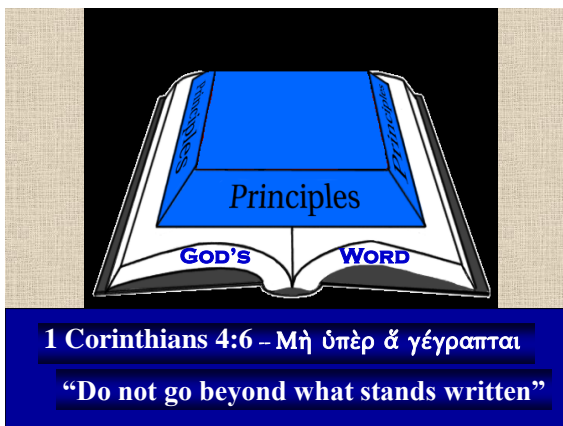
II. The Principle is Applied to the Church – Acts 15

III. The Principle is Applied to Each Believer – James 4

**THE
CHURCH
IS GOD’S
CHURCH**







“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ **“Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”**

I. The Principle Clearly Set Forth – 1 C. 4:6a

➤ **[1] The Principle is Clearly Stated – 1 Cor. 4:6**

“Do NOT Go Beyond What Stands Written”

**“Do Not Go
Beyond What
Stands Written”**

1 Corinthians 4:6

Μὴ ὑπὲρ ὃ γέγραπται

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Principles

God's Word

1 Corinthians 4:6 -- Μὴ ὑπὲρ ὃ γέγραπται

“Do not go beyond what stands written”

“ge-grap-tai”

(γέγραπται)

“It Stands Written”

It was written in the past – and the
results continue to the present time
– “IT STANDS WRITTEN”

What This Term Means

GE-GRAP-TAI (γέγραπται)

GOD'S WORD “STANDS WRITTEN”

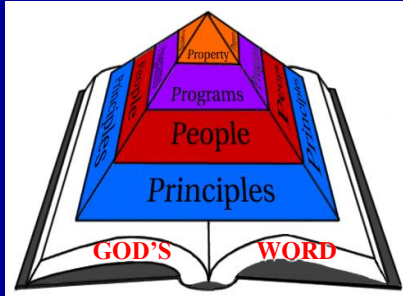
God's Word Relative to
Creation “Stands Written”
God's Word Relative to
Our Human Condition
“Stands Written”
God's Word Relative to
Our Future “Stands Written”

“Do Not Go
Beyond What
Stands Written”

1 Corinthians 4:6

Μὴ ὑπὲρ ὃ γέγραπται

The Word of God is Foundational to ALL



“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”

I. The Principle Clearly Set Forth – 1 C. 4:6a

➤ [1] The Principle is Clearly Stated – 1 Cor. 4:6

“Do NOT Go Beyond What Stands Written”

➤ [2] The Principle is Clearly Expanded Upon – 4:1-6

- ✓ {1} Scripture Alone Must be the Standard for Judging
- ✓ {2} Only Visible Actions Violating Clear Statements of Scripture
- ✓ {3} One Must Never Judge the Motives of Others – Only God Can
- ✓ {4} One Must Only be Bound by Scripture –not Other’s Opinions
- ✓ {5} Failure to see Personal Sin Doesn’t Mean there is None – 4:4-5
- ✓ {6} Standards Other than Scripture is a Sign of Arrogance – 4:6

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his neighbor?”

I. The Principle of Self-Examination – 4:6a

➤ [1] The Principle is Clearly Stated – 1 Cor. 4:6

“Do NOT Go Beyond What Stands Written”

➤ [2] The Principle is Clearly Expanded Upon – 4:1-6

- {1} Scripture Alone Must Be the Only Standard
- {2} Observable Actions Alone Must be Assessed
- {3} Motives Must Never be Judged – 4:5
- {4} God’s Judgment Must be the Only Concern
- {5} Failure to See Personal Sin Does Not Free Us
- {6} Standards Other than Scripture Prove Arrogance

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”

I. The Principle is Clearly Set Forth – 1 C. 4:6a

II. The Principle is Applied to the Church – Acts 15

➤ [1] The Setting - Visible Results Among Gentiles

➤ [2] The Procedure

✓ {1} Personal Opinion is Considered – “After...much debate”

❖ That’s a good way to go always – Hear people out

✓ {2} Personal Testimony is Heard – 15:7b-12–Peter, Paul, Barnabas

❖ But once people have given their opinion – one should consider the facts: Who was there? What did they see?

✓ {3} Scripture is the Final & Ultimate Basis for Judgment–15:13-21

➤ When it’s all said & done – Scripture is the standard

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”

I. The Principle is Clearly Set Forth – 1 C. 4:6a

II. The Principle is Applied to the Church – Acts 15

III. The Principle is Applied to Each Believer – Jms. 4

➤ [1] The Command – “Stop Speaking Down On...”

➤ [2] The Problem – the world, the flesh, the devil

➤ [3] The Conclusion – “who are you who judges?”

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

NOTICE THE PROGRESSION

I. God’s Expectations – James 3:13-18

➤ [1] God wants peace – “*first of all pure then peaceable*”

➤ [2] In opposition to this is the world, flesh & devil

II. God’s Assessment – James 4:1-10

➤ [1] You are being controlled by the flesh – 4:1-3 – *not the Spirit*

✓ This must end or there will be tension, warfare & death

➤ [2] You are being controlled by the world – 4:4-6 – *not heaven*

✓ The world brings enmity with man; it also does so with God

➤ [3] You are being controlled by the devil – 4:7-10 – *not God*

✓ {1} Negatively – “Resist the devil” – 4:7

✓ {2} Positively – “Draw Nigh to God” – 4:8-10

II. God’s Application – James 4:11-12

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”
 James 4:11-12
 What’s the connection between 4:1-10 & 4:11-12?
 ➤ Notice the Development of the Argument
 ➤ {1} He Presents the Principle – 4:1-10
 ➤ [1] The Need to Confront the Flesh & its Lust – 4:1-3
 ➤ [2] The Need to Confront the World & its Impact – 4:4-6
 ➤ [3] The Need to Confront the Devil & his Influence – 4:7-10
 ➤ {2} He Presents the Application – 4:11-12
He Presents the Practical Outworking of that Principle in Every Day Life
 ✓ The World, the Flesh & the Devil strongly influence our personal standards and judgment of each other.

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”
 James 4:11-12
1A. The Command – 4:11 – “stop speaking against one another”
What Creates So Much Division?
 ➤ Why Do So Many Tensions Exist?
 ➤ It’s Tied Up in the Greek Word – καταλαλέω – ‘katalaleō’ (4x in vv. 11-12)
 ➤ It means literally –
 ‘to speak’ (laleō) + ‘down on’ (kata)
 ➤ When we go beyond Scripture (when Scripture is no longer the sole standard)
 ➤ Then we set ourselves up as the standard
 ➤ & from that lofty standpoint – we ‘speak down’ on others

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”
 James 4:11-12
1A. The Command – 4:11
“Stop speaking down on/against one another”
 ➤ What is the Problem With Our Standards of Judgment?
 ➤ [1] They’re Influenced by the Flesh/Our Personal Desires
 ➤ That’s where all our fights come from – 4:1-3
 ➤ [2] They’re Influenced by the World/Worldly Values
 ➤ That’s the cause of enmity with man & God – 4:4-6
 ➤ [3] They’re Influenced by the Devil/They’re demonic
 ➤ That’s rooted in the influence of the devil – 4:7-10
 ➤ *That’s what makes our opinions so dangerous*

“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”

1A. The Command – 4:11

2A. The Problem – 4:11-12

1B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Above Others

➤ Using oneself/one's opinion as a standard sets one above others

2B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Above Scripture

1C. The Judgment

➤ [1] One who speaks down on his brother judges his brother

➤ [2] One then speaks down on what is by quality law of God

➤ [3] One thus 'judges' that which is by quality law of God

2C. The Result

➤ [1] You are not 'by quality' a 'doer of the law'

➤ [2] You are 'by quality' a 'judge of the law'

Once Again – Let's Remind Ourselves

What Creates So Much Division?

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➤ When we go beyond Scripture (when
Scripture is no longer the sole standard)

➤ Then we set ourselves up as the standard

➤ & from that lofty standpoint – we
'speak down on' {1} others & {2} God's Law

THIS IS GOD'S CHURCH



“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”

James 4:11-12

➤ “Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”

1A. The Command – 4:11

2A. The Problem – 4:11-12

1B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Above Others

2B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Above Scripture

We Can’t Stop There – God Didn’t

3B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Level with God

➤ When We ‘Thus’ *Set Ourselves Above Others* & *Speak Down* on them

➤ We Set Ourselves Above the ‘Law of God’

➤ And we ‘speak’ (laleō) + ‘down’ (kata) on it
[God’s Word] as well

Just Meditate on This for a Moment

➤ When We ‘Thus’ *Set Ourselves Above Others*
& *Speak Down* on them

➤ We Set Ourselves Above the ‘Law of God’

➤ And we ‘speak’ (laleō) + ‘down’ (kata) on it
[God’s Word] as well

➤ & When We Put Ourselves Above God’s
Word & ‘thus’ ‘speak’ ‘down’ on it

➤ We *put ourselves on a level with God Himself*

➤ Which is most preposterous

➤ It is the Ultimate Evidence of Human Arrogance

THIS IS GOD'S CHURCH



“Stop Passing Judgment on Your Neighbor”
 James 4:11-12

➤ **“Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”**

1A. The Command – 4:11

➤ **“Stop Speaking Down On/Against One Another”**

2A. The Problem – 4:11-12

➤ [1] We place ourselves above others

➤ [2] We place ourselves above God’s Word

➤ [3] We place ourselves on a level with God

3A. The Conclusion – 4:12

➤ **“Who are you who judges his/her neighbor?”**

➤ *Who in the world are we to think that we are in a position to pass judgment on anybody else?*

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We Can’t Stop There – God Didn’t

3B. One Arrogantly Places Oneself Level with God

➤ & When We Put Ourselves Above God’s Word (& ‘thus’ ‘speak’ ‘down’ on it

➤ *We put ourselves on a level with God Himself – the Giver of That Law*

➤ **Which is most preposterous**

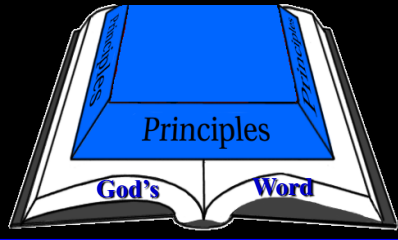
➤ **It is the Ultimate Evidence of Human Arrogance**

“Do Not Go Beyond What Stands Written”

1 Corinthians 4:6

Μὴ ὑπὲρ ὃ γέγραπται

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1 Corinthians 4:6 -- Μὴ ὑπὲρ ὃ γέγραπται

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“It Stands Written”

It was written in the past – and the
results continue to the present time
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What This Term Means

GE-GRAP-TAI (γέγραπται)

GOD'S WORD "STANDS WRITTEN"

God's Word Relative to Sin
& Our Must Not Obey
Creation "Stands Written"
96 Stands Written
Word stands written
"Stands Written"

**"Do Not Go
Beyond What
Stands Written"**

1 Corinthians 4:6

Μὴ ὑπὲρ ἃ γέγραπται

**Where This Term
is Used. . .**

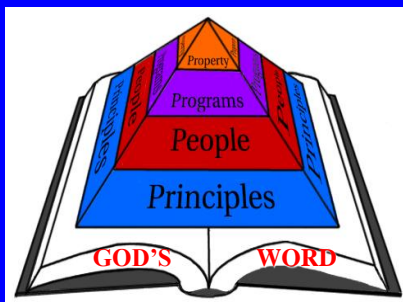
By Peter —
By Paul —
1 Pet (10X), Acts 7 (10X),
1 Cor (9X), Rom (16X)
word, but the thought)

HOW THIS TERM IS USED...

(v. 4) "It Stands Written ~~by the prophets~~ re-appear! "Man shall not live by bread alone..."
 (v. 5) "It Stands Written ~~by the prophets~~ re-appear! "Man shall not live by bread alone..."
 and re-appear! "Man shall not live by bread alone..."
 (v. 10) "It Stands Written ~~by the prophets~~ re-appear! "Man shall not live by bread alone..."
 – Matthew 4: 4, 7, 10
 & Luke 4: 4, 8, 10

GE-GRAP-TAI (γέγραπται)

The Word of God is Foundational to **ALL**



“Stop Passing Judgment”

1 Corinthians 4:1-6

➤ **“The One Who Examines Me is the Lord”**

1A. The Principle of Self-Examination – 4:6a

2A. The Principle of Biblical Exclusiveness – 4:6b

“Do NOT Go Beyond What Stands Written”

3A. The Principle of Biblical Exclusiveness Applied to the Judgment of Others – 4:1-6

1B. Scripture Alone Must Be the Only Standard

2B. Observable Actions Alone Must be Assessed

3B. Motives Must Never be Judged – 4:5

4B. God's Judgment Must be the Only Concern

5B. Failure to See Personal Sin Does Not Free Us

6B. Standards Other than Scripture Prove Arrogance

“Stop Passing Judgment”

Don't Let Yourself Be Judged by Others

**Important Biblical Truths
Concerning the Judgment of Others
in God's Church**

1 Corinthians 4:1-6
