

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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**Sermon Notes Outline
July 25, 2021**

T I T L E: Finding Fault in Others

T E X T: James 4:11-12

Christians tend to find it much easier to find fault in others more so than in themselves.

- I. FINDING FAULT IN OTHERS IS NOT A MATTER OF LEGITIMATE MORAL DISCERNMENT DIRECTED TOWARD ANOTHER'S BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDE, ETC., BUT A MATTER OF A JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE, OR RIGID CENSORIOUSNESS TOWARD OTHERS DEVOID OF INTROSPECTION.**

Matthew 7:1–5

- II. FAULTFINDING IN OTHERS IS A NATURAL RESULT OF THE FALL OF MAN BUT SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO BECOME AN ONGOING TRAIT OF A CHRISTIAN, ESPECIALLY A FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS KNOWN AS THE CHURCH. (Adam & Eve blamed each other as well as the Lord)**

- A. Faultfinding in others as a natural result of the fall should remind us that no Christian is exempt from this sin regardless of his or her maturity.**

- B. Faultfinding in others can and often does express itself in a multitude of ways:**

The Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint sheds some light on the ways faultfinders express themselves.

Mumblers — Moses' brother and Miriam his sister... Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses for marrying a Cushite woman (**Num. 12:1, 8**).

Grumblers — The people of Israel spoke against God by complaining about their conditions in the wilderness (**Num. 21:5**).

Slanderers — The Psalmist says a wicked person will speak against his brother, slandering him with lies (**Ps. 50:20**).

Verbal Bullies — Job's friends spoke against Job, insulting him and crushing him with their words (**Job 19:1-3**).

Unbelievers speak against Christians,
slandering them as evildoers (1 Pet.
2:12; 3:16).

- C. Faultfinders usually preface their criticisms with language intended to excuse themselves from any sinful behavior such as gossip or a censorious attitude toward others.**

“Now, stop me if I’m wrong, but . . .” or, “Now, I don’t mean to be critical, but . . .” or, “Perhaps I shouldn’t say this about him or her, but . . .” or even, “I really like so-and-so as a person, but . . .”

II. FINDING FAULT IN OTHERS LENDS ITSELF TO A KIND OF SPIRITUAL MUTINY IN WHICH THE LAW OR LAWS OF THE LORD ARE DISCOUNTED OR OUTRIGHT REJECTED AS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY GOVERNING THE BEHAVIOR OF MAN.

“....speaks against the law and judges the law...”

- A. The fault finder guilty of being judgmental seldom approaches another’s behavior or attitude or belief objectively.**

Proverbs 18:17

Proverbs 29:20

James 1:19

- B. The fault finder guilty of being judgmental, perhaps unbeknownst to himself or herself is guilty of usurping an authority and or ability that only God and His word have, i.e. judging others with full knowledge of their situation.**

“....you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”

Colossians 4:6

The judgmental person often places himself above God’s law of love.

III. THE FAULT FINDER GUILTY OF BEING JUDGMENTAL REFLECTS AN ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY OVER OTHERS AND IS EVIDENCE OF AN ARROGANCE OR A SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS CONDEMNED BY THE LORD. V. 12

- A. The fault finder with a condescending attitude is dangerously close to assuming the role of God in another person’s life.**

“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,

- B. The fault finder with a condescending attitude is flirting with the discipline of the Lord.**

the One who is able to save and to destroy;

- C. The fault finder with a condescending attitude needs to consider the question, “Has God died and left me in charge?”**

but who are you who judge your neighbor?”

Has God died and left you in charge?

Conclusion:

Swindoll: Far too often, Christians criticize others before we get all the facts. We observe an event, catch a few words of a conversation, or gather a handful of random facts. We then leap to conclusions and start flapping our jaws about it. The jabbering catches on and spreads, and before you know it the “gossip” becomes “news.” There’s nothing more contagious in a church, student body, business, staff, organization, or home than a negative spirit. That infection is contagious—it spreads like a cold in a kindergarten!