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*Growing a Faith that Works – A Series in James – Week 10*

## RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO PLAY GOD

*James 4:11-17*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** Most of us have encountered narcissistic individuals who possess an inflated sense of self-importance and a conspicuous lack of empathy. Narcissists love to control those around them with charm and charisma, or simply with raw power. Perhaps from time-to-time, we've slipped into that posture. In our relationships with others, and in our work, our arrogance has gotten the best of us. We're now functioning as practical atheists, acting as if God does not exist; nevertheless, striving to play God in God's place. James wants to address this tendency that's possible in all of us. James has just talked about humbling ourselves before the Lord so that we might be exalted (4:10). Now James presents us with two pictures of what it's like when we *don't* humble ourselves before God. We act poorly in our relationships with others, and we act arrogantly toward others in our work. In other words, we play God in both areas. James confronts his readers with this, and then he gives us a surprising antidote.

### 1. Playing God with others

*James 4:11-12*

### 2. Playing God with ourselves

*James 4:13-16*

### **3. How to stop playing God**

*James 4:17*

### **4. Main Idea**

### **5. Takeaways**