

Louder Than Words #9  
**Ridding Godless Self-Confidence**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

James 4:11-17

**Discussion Questions**

1. How do you usually react when people make wrong assumptions about you or judge you the wrong way?
2. Decisions make up most of our daily life. While there are people who are afraid to make the wrong decisions that they end up not making any decisions at all, for a lot of us, making decisions come easier because of our experiences in correctly assessing a situation and quickly making the right choice. These experiences tend to make us confident in our ability to make the right choices or the correct assumptions. However, when a follower of Jesus Christ takes God out of his/her decision-making process because he/she makes so many decisions everyday that he/she simply does not have time to consider consulting with the Lord, then that believer is in danger of godless self-confidence. James addresses this matter and teaches us how to rid ourselves of this attitude. Discuss how quickly you can misjudge someone without knowing the facts about that person. Where do these wrong assumptions usually lead to?
3. Read James 4:11-17. James shows us two truths that we all need to realize about ourselves:
  - a. *Realization #1: You possess an inability to see into the hearts of men and women (v. 11-12).* Since you cannot see the heart of another person, you need to be careful in assessing or judging and criticizing that person. Only God knows what is truly in the heart of man, so judgment should be left solely to Him. In what manner should we speak to one another (v. 11)? Discuss what happens when we are quick to pass judgment on others instead of leaving the assessment to God? Instead of being critical and judgmental, how should you handle those people who bring out the negative feelings in you?
  - b. *Realization #2: You are unable to plan with absolute certainty for the future (v. 13-14).* Life is like a vapor that appears and then vanishes. Not knowing exactly what will happen tomorrow should keep you from being too self-confident of the course of your life, but does this mean that you cannot plan your life? What does it mean then? Discuss what possible causes can wipe out even the best-laid plans.
4. Being unable to plan for the future with certainty, consider these five spiritual

factors that can help you plan for the eternal future:

- a. *Jesus is coming again.* Are you prepared to meet Jesus Christ face to face? What will you tell Him if He asks how you spent your time on earth? Would He be pleased with the advocacies you spent your life supporting?
  - b. *You can't take anything with you.* How do you plan to use what you have right now, since when you leave this world, you cannot take any possessions with you?
  - c. *Leaving a spiritual legacy is more important than your own legacy.* What spiritual legacy can you leave behind for your family or to the people around you? How is it more important than your own personal legacy?
  - d. *There are eternal rewards at stake.* Have you done anything for God that has eternal value, such as sharing the gospel and leading someone to the Christ? What achievements done for the Lord's sake can you present to God?
  - e. *Am I becoming more like Christ.* Are you making an effort to reflect Christ in you, with the time that was given to you?
5. Following the two realizations mentioned, James had written two action points we can take:
    - a. *Action Point #1: Trust God enough to submit to His will (v. 15).* This action is the opposite of godless self-confidence. Have you ever asked God, "Why not?" when you pray and do not get your way? What is the right thing to say when you are making plans? What does it mean to submit to God's will?
    - b. *Action Point #2: Recognize God enough to acknowledge His work (v. 16-17).* Taking credit for what belongs to God is definitely pride talking. Share how you acknowledge God's work in your daily life. When you tell your life story, does it include God? Is He part of your successes?

*Walk*

*How you rid yourself of godless self-confidence speaks louder than words to the unbelieving world of your real faith in Jesus Christ. Trusting Him enough to submit to His will and recognizing Him enough to acknowledge His work in your life will keep you from the slippery slope of godless self-confidence. Never be afraid to trust the all-knowing God. Looking at your life plans, what aspects of it do you need to commit to God in prayer? How can you place your future plans in His hands?*

*Worship & Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder that I am but a human with many limitations, but You are the God who isn't bound by any limits at all. You are the God who is all-knowing and sovereign over all. Because of who You are, I am free from making judgment of the hearts of men, and free from the worry of what the future might bring. Therefore I place my trust in You alone. Do not allow me to become confident in myself, instead enable me with a tender heart, humble and hungry for You, Father, so that as I rest assured that Christ is coming again, I may become more like Him. In Jesus' name I ask these things. Amen.*