

# Oaks-West Church of Christ

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## Beware of Assumptions

*by Rickie Jenkins*

Assumptions are dangerous. Assumptions are more often inaccurate than accurate. We are never qualified to make assumptions. Too often they are made by emotions than reason.

We play all kinds of games. Most love the power game. Here is how it works.

Here are some ground rules for starting. Find someone who is different. He or she may look different, sound different or think different. It works well if the person holds to different opinions and/or reacts in a different way than the “acceptable manner,” which differs from your group. This game is especially effective if someone has a mark on his or her past record that your group considers worth discussing, even if it is over and done with, fully forgiven, and none of your business, which

is true over 95% of the time.

Here is how we play “Let’s Label.” It involves six steps. First step: Find something we do not like about the person. Not hard since most people are much more demanding of others than of themselves. Second step: Examine the externals. We must do this since there is no way to know the “internals.” Third step: Form negative and critical opinions. Fourth step: Jump to several inaccurate conclusions. This follows naturally because there is always an inability to know all the facts. Fifth step: Mentally stick a label on the person in question. That saves time... keeps us from having to verify all the details. Sixth step: Freely share all findings and identifying labels with others ... so everyone can “pray more intelligently.”

## **Beware of Assumptions ...**

What is so bad about being harsh, critical, or hypocritical? Four things come to mind: (1) We are never qualified. (2) We never know all the facts. When people have the spiritual "plank in eye" syndrome, they lose all sense of perspective. They become blinded. It happens so easily. (3) We never are able to read another's motive. (4) We are prejudiced people, never completely objective. We become blinded by prejudice - preconceived notions about old folks, or young, or folks who look like or dress like or work at.....We become blinded by personality; wanting to saddle up to this person or that family, or avoid them because they're like.... (5) We put ourselves in a position we are not qualified to fill, namely, we play God.

We become blinded by probably the biggest "P" word: Power. I remain convinced that most of the splits in the Lord's church and most of the conflict that continues today has very little to do with truth or practice and very much to do with power. Control.

Most of us are so unaware of these things so we overlook our limitations. We think we know more than we do, hence our judging continues out of habit. Because of this we jump to false conclusions.

Beware of assumptions. They are just that, assumptions. Ask, "Do I know all the facts?" "Do I know the context?" "Do I

know the tone?" "Is my prejudice driving my assumptions?" "Is this really personal?" "Does this merit a response or mercy?" "Am I practicing or about to practice the Golden Rule?" "Does my assumption make me more like Jesus?"

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**



**Upcoming Ladies' Bible Classes** - cancelled until further notice.

**Services for June** - For the month of June, we have decided to recombine the services. For June, we will meet for one service at 10:45 a.m. There will not be a Bible class or evening service, and there still will not be a Wednesday evening service. Toward the end of June we will make a decision on July. Thank you for your support and encouragement as we make these difficult decisions! --DT for the elders

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.



Please remember the following individuals in your daily prayers:

June Owens  
Jack Wilson  
Jerry Richardson  
Karen Hallmark  
Shirley Perkins' brother, Leon  
Morgan O'Hair  
Dinah Williams  
Joy Ulrich  
Anne Stanberry  
Nancy Richardson  
Kevin Barth

*And continue to pray for each other*

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

We have many that face challenges on a daily basis and need your prayers as well.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

