

Lord, Change My Critical Attitude

9 August, 2009



Complaining deals with situations or events .

Criticism deals with people .

Defining a Critical Attitude:

A critical attitude is dwelling upon the perceived faults of another with no view to their good.

Our Scripture reference: Numbers 12: 1-12

Matt 7:3 Speck & Log syndrome, 1 John 1:9, Gal 1:10, 1 Pet 5:7

6 Principles Concerning Critical Attitudes:

1. Criticism is wrong .
2. Criticism is petty .
3. Criticism is self - exalting .
4. Criticism is painful .
5. Criticism is often inadvertent .
6. Criticism plugs the flow of God's blessings .

Discussion Questions

Principle 3 Criticism inflates the self. In what ways does criticism create a subtle elevation of the one making the criticism?

Anything that makes you feel superior is not conducive to your spiritual life. It takes off the focus off me and my faults and highlights me as the one who knows. Criticism elevates me to the highest and the best. Criticism reduces the pain of being in the spotlight and gives me the fleshly satisfaction of running the spotlight. It puts pressure on others. People find it harder to see my life if I am shining the glaring light of criticism on others.

Principle 4 Criticism is painful. What would happen if we applied every critical statement we are about to make to ourselves before we applied it to anyone else's life?

We will understand how the criticism impact on the other person. We may center our attention on what God thinks of us. Life may be sweeter for yourself and those around you.

Principle 6 If criticism given or received blocks our relationship with God, what must we do to resolve the problem?

We must exhibit a righteous and gracious attitude toward family members, fellow Christians and friends. To restore God's blessing, we need to confess and forsake this wilderness attitude, and replace it with a Promised Land attitude.

Let's Talk Solution

1. Am I a critical person? Or Am I negative and harsh in my opinion of others? Or Am I quick to find fault? Or Am I an analytical person who gets carried away into criticism?

Everyone is sensitive to these questions because that is who we are. We are frustrated by the defeat in this area of ourselves. Those who are analytical – who have all kinds of thoughts and ideas constantly coming through their minds – need to respond to this challenge: Am I a critical person?

2. Am I reaping the consequences in my relationship with God?

As we identify the presence and effects of critical attitudes in our lives, we are able to spot the results in our lives more clearly. A critical spirit creates all the effects we learn today. So ask yourself: Is my life like a wilderness? Is my heart like a wasteland? Am I reaping the consequences in my relationship with God? Am I ready to agree that my critical attitude is one reason I am in the desert?

3. Am I willing to turn from the habit of a critical attitude and repent?

If yes, ask God to deal with your critical attitude. Use prayer below, if you find suitable.

Lord, Thank you for the priceless privilege to worship and live alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you that each one is known and loved by You and had his and her own story of Your grace and goodness in their lives. Lord, I am like them in that You found me in my sin also. And You have shown the light of Christ into my life. Now I am in the process of growing and becoming more like You. Help me along the way to discern the difference between loving, constructive criticism and the kind of criticism that destroys. Help me to think highly and graciously about others. Help me to pray for others.

Thank You that Your Word has shone into my heart. Thank You for using it to reveal the price that I pay for my critical opinions. Forgive me for thinking that my perspective is always the right perspective. God, I recognize the arrogance in that. Give me graciousness, love, and forbearance with others. Thank You, God that You have made us all different. Help me to celebrate our differences and not demand that all the world see things exactly as we do. Give me victory over a critical spirit. Make me quick to turn from that pattern of thinking so that I might know Your fullness in my life. I pray this in Jesus; name. Amen.

LORD, CHANGE MY ATTITUDE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Objective:

To identify the presence and effects of critical attitudes in our lives

A continuously critical attitude toward those around me will consume all that is healthy and joy-producing in my life.

#1 Key Passage: Numbers 12:1-12

- Numbers 12 records one of five events that led up to God to decide to thrust the children of Israel into the wilderness
- Murmuring – summary term for 5 wrong attitudes
- Verse 1, “Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite..”

Definition of Attitude: Attitudes are patterns of thinking formed over a long period of time.

#2 Defining Criticism

- Complaining deals with **situations** or **events**
- Criticism deals with **people**
- A critical attitude is **dwelling** upon the **perceived** faults of another with **no view** to their good.

#3 Bible Study Application

*PRINCIPLE 1: Criticism is **wrong**. Why?*

- It ruins our fellowship with God.
- It hurts us.
- It destroys our relationship with others.

*PRINCIPLE 2: Criticism is **petty**. Why?*

- It camouflages three deeper problems.
- A blend of unforgiveness.
- Envy, jealousy, or resentment.
- Personal failure.

*PRINCIPLE 3: Criticism is **self-exalting**.*

- Criticism inflates the self.
- Oswald Chambers, wrote, “Beware of anything that puts you in the place of the superior.”
- It takes the focus of me and my faults and highlights me as the highest and the best.

*PRINCIPLE 4: Criticism is **painful**.*

- A person who is constantly or continually criticized can become good-for-nothing.
- Parents often leave their kids' lives in shambles by creating a household filled with criticism.
- How do you respond to such criticism? Gal 1:10

*PRINCIPLE 5: Criticism is **often inadvertent**.*

- Inadvertent - 1 : *not focusing the mind on a matter* : *inattentive* 2 : *unintentional* <*an inadvertent omission*>
- How do you keep from making thoughtless comments?
- What do you do when you realize that you've made a thoughtless comment?

*PRINCIPLE 6: Criticism **plugs the flow of God's blessing**.*

Oswald Chambers, wrote, “Whenever you are in a critical temper, it is impossible to enter into communion with God.”

Criticism makes us hard and vindictive and cruel.