



45 What you say flows from what is in your heart. Luke 6:45 (NLT)

9 With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. 10 Curses and blessings out of the same mouth! My friends, this can't go on. James 3:9-10 (MSG)

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD... Psalm 19:14 (NLT)

A critical person displays:

"I know what's best for your life."

1 Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Galatians 6:1 (MSG)

14 For the whole Law can be summed up in this one command: "Love others as you love yourself." 15 But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other. Galatians 5:14-15 (TLB)

18 Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)

Reasons why people become critical:

- Criticism can be an expression of hurt.

We tend to criticize what we see as a threat.

- Criticism can be an expression of insecurity.

We tend to criticize in others what we're most insecure about in ourselves.

- Criticism can be an expression of pride.

We tend to criticize in others what we justify in ourselves.

1 "Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. 2 That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. 3 It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. 4 Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? 5 It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor. Matthew 7:1-5 (MSG)

2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

Do you want to be:

- A Fault Finder.

Jesus identifies two Fault finders:

- Pharisees.

- Satan.

10 Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last— ... For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night. Revelation 12:10 (NLT)

- A Hope Dealer.

23 He never answered back when insulted; when he suffered he did not threaten to get even; he left his case in the hands of God who always judges fairly. 1 Peter 2:23 (TLB)

10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more." John 8:10-11 (NLT)

People who find faults:

- Don't become one of them.

- Don't be defined by them.

- Don't forget you're forgiven.

12 because I will forgive their wickedness and I will no longer hold their sins against them." Hebrews 8:12 (GWT)

25 "I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again. Isaiah 43:25 (NLT)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for your personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from Sundays Talk? Explain.
- How does criticism affect you?
- A critical person displays that they know what's best for others. Why is that so dangerous and destructive?
- Talk about the points under the sub-heading "Reasons why people become critical". Can you think of other reasons why people become critical? Explain.
- Read Matthew 7:1-5 from a couple of different translations. How is judging others related to criticism?
- How can we be a Hope Dealer? What are some ways that we can give hope to others through our words?
- What are some ways we can prevent ourselves from becoming critical of others?
- How do we not allow the criticism of others to affect us or hurt us?
- When others are critical, why is it important to remember that we are forgiven?

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