



- God provided the **Holy Spirit** to teach you the truth.

But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you. John 14:26

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. John 16:13 (NIV)

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose. Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Definition: criticism

To **disapprove** of someone or something based on **perceived faults** or mistakes.

To find fault.

A critical person displays:

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

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)

For the whole Law can be summed up in this one command: "Love others as you love yourself." 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)

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**.

How long will you torture me? How long will you try to crush me with your words? Job 19:2 (NLT)

Job: "You are trying to make yourselves look better than me by using my disgrace as an argument against me." Job 19:5 (GWT)

Pride will cause us to criticize in others what we **justify** in ourselves.

"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? 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)

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 we 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**.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom 15:13

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

9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. 1 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

10 So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Romans 14:10 (MSG)

How to stop being critical:

- Ask God to **change your heart**.

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

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God,... Psalm 51:10

- Learn to **look** for the **good** in others.

Whoever eagerly seeks good searches for good will, but whoever looks for evil finds it. Proverbs 11:27

- Use your words to speak **life**.

- Learn to **appreciate** people.

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. John 3:17 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- 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?
- Talk about the points under the sub-heading - "How to stop being critical".

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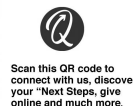
Today's Talk..



How do I stop being critical of others?

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

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