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Never Ignore The Value Of Constructive Criticism

MEMORY VERSE

"If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself."

Proverbs 15:31-32

Three Prayers For Dealing With Criticism

God help me . . .

1. To know when to _____ criticism

"Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, 'Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?' And they challenged him vigorously. But he answered them ..."

Judges 8:1-2

"... When the men of Ephraim heard Gideon's answer, their anger subsided.

Judges 8:3 NLT

2. To know when to _____ criticism

"When they hurled their insults at him [Jesus], he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."

1 Peter 2:23

CRITICIZING

3. To overcome my _____

"Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing."

Proverbs 12:18 NLT

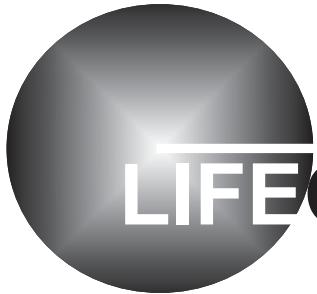
Resources used in the preparation of this message include: Craig Groeschel, *Those People*. Rene Schlaepfer, *Rethink Criticism*. Dr. Mark Moore, *Criticism*, and many others

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Memorize Proverbs 15:31-32
- Ask God to help me to know when to respond to criticism and when to ignore it
- Ask God to help me to overcome my own critical spirit
- Get the most out of this weekend's teaching by attending my Life Group this week



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LIFE GROUPS

Discussion Questions - Week #4

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "Zip It: Criticizing," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- Which do you think you struggle with more, being overly sensitive to criticism or too critical?
- Do you think your friends or family would describe you as overly sensitive or critical?
- Who or what do you find yourself criticizing the most?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The book of Acts presents us with a great example of how to give and receive constructive criticism. Read Acts 18:24-28. What can Priscilla and Aquila teach us about delivering good constructive criticism?

What do you think it was in Apollos that made him receptive to their correction?

What result came from Priscilla and Aquila's correction?

Can you think of a time when someone corrected you, and you were thankful for it?

How do you know when to receive someone's criticism and when to dismiss it?

2. As we are learning throughout this series, our words have the power of life and death. In the following two passages, the Apostle Paul encourages us to use them to give life. Read Ephesians 4:29-32 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Why do you think it's often easier to tear others down rather than build them up?

Do you think building others up means we must always be complimentary and admiring?

How do you think those in your sphere of influence might respond if you increased your focus on building them up with your words?

Is there something practical that you could do to make building others up a consistent habit?

3. The book of James has some of the most instructive teachings in scripture about the way we use our words. Read James 4:11-12 and then James 2:8. What law is James speaking of in verses 11 & 12?

How do we break the law when we criticize others?

Are you comfortable with others being as critical of you as you are of them? Why or why not?

Is there ever a time when the loving thing to do is to critique?

If so, how do you know when that is the case?

TAKING IT HOME

- ☞ Is there someone in your life that you have been overly critical of? If so, what would it take for you to apologize to them?

PRAYER REQUESTS