



DIFFICULT PEOPLE – 1 OF 4

Critical People

June 4, 2017

PRAISE AND CRITICISM – WINDOWS TO THE HEART

⁵*Better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool. --Ecclesiastes 7:5 (NLT)*

- Praise – often reveals what you **value** most.
- Criticism – often reveals your deepest **insecurities**.

⁴*How can you think of saying, “Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,” when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? --Matthew 7:4 (NLT)*

WRONG RESPONSES

1. **FIGHT**
2. **FLIGHT**

RIGHT RESPONSES

1. **LISTEN** TO CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

- When their motive is to **help** not hurt.
- When the person **can** help.

³¹*If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise.* ³²*If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself...* --Proverbs 15:31-32 (NLT)

2. **ANSWER** THEIR CRITICISM

- When the person is missing **information** that would change his perception.
- When the person is **open** to change.

¹*Then the people of Ephraim asked Gideon, “Why have you treated us this way? Why didn’t you send for us when you first went out to fight the Midianites?” And they argued heatedly with Gideon.* ²*But Gideon replied, ...* --Judges 8:1-2 (NLT)

3. **DISMISS** INVALID CRITICISM

- When the person is characterized by being **overly** critical.
- When this person emotionally unhealthy or **wounded**.

¹³*Jesus replied, “Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up,* ¹⁴*so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind...they will both fall into a ditch.”* --Matthew 15:13-14 (NLT)

WE CAN'T PLEASE ALL PEOPLE, BUT WE CAN PLEASE GOD!

⁴*For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people.* --1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)