



Dealing With Difficult People, Pt. 1: Critical People

Criticism is something we all struggle with. It is a cancer that can destroy relationships. Sometimes it's unjust criticism from other people. At other times, it can be our own critical nature causing us to unjustly criticize others. through Scripture we can learn how to deal with critical people and how to overcome our own critical tendencies.

Bottom Line: Criticism is a reality of life. How critical people and their criticism affects you is up to you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's one of the best pieces of advice you've ever received? How has that advice affected you?
2. **Read James 3:17 & Ecclesiastes 7:5.** How do you typically respond to criticism? Describe a time when you received criticism. Was your reaction positive or defensive? How did that criticism impact you?
3. **Read Proverbs 15:31-32.** How do you usually determine if criticism from others is constructive or unjust? What types of unjust criticism are you currently receiving or giving?
4. **Read Matthew 15:13-14.** Some people's opinions are not worth listening to - especially when they are not from God. Why do you think we so often put other people's opinions of us ahead of God's opinion of us?
5. Considering your own behavior, how have you been unjustly critical of others? What will you do to overcome your own critical nature?
6. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
7. How can the group encourage you this week?

Extra: Read Romans 8:31-39 everyday to be reminded that God's opinion of you is the **ONLY** one that matters!