



Pt.6: Bring It; Contending with Criticism

Critics are everywhere! Nobody is immune from the opinions of others. Even the Apostle Paul had to defend himself against harsh critics who attacked his character and wanted to undermine his credibility. How we respond to those who criticize us is what really matters. Paul's response is an example we can follow.

Bottom Line: Christ like character in all situations honors God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is it like to have someone talk about you behind your back?
2. Describe a time when you did something for someone and you were criticized for it. How did you respond?
3. Meekness was something that the Apostle Paul talked about as a good character quality for a Christ follower. It means softness of temper; mildness; gentleness. In what ways did Jesus exemplify meekness during his ministry? Who have you personally been around that exhibits this characteristic?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-4.** What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says, "although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh."(vs. 3)?
5. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:5.** Paul reminds us what we are to do when faced with things that aren't true. In what areas of your life, or in the life of those around you, do you need to defend truth right now?
6. **Read 1 Peter 4:12-14.** What types of world judgements do Christians face? What judgements have you personally faced as a Christian? How have you responded?
7. During the message, Brett commented that no government program will save someone's soul, only Christ can do that. What is something at your church that helps people take next steps towards Jesus? What steps have you already taken, or what steps can you take, to grow your relationship with Christ?
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can this group support you this week?

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.