

## ***Do I have a Critical Spirit?***

Luke 18:9-14

It's just a fact of life that if you attempt to do anything for the Lord or live godly, you will be criticized. It is especially hurtful when it is untrue criticism. Worse than being criticized, however, is developing a critical spirit. We're called to be discerning (Philippians 1:9-10) and to prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:15-22), and that does require critical thinking skills. Yet, even that is different than a critical spirit.

I've learned that you can't always trust the critics. While it is easy to point out the faulty critics in our lives, sometimes it's much harder to admit when we have our own critical spirit. And, it's even harder to acknowledge when our criticism is false and hurtful.

Criticism is a problem in the lives of a lot people, but sadly, it is a struggle among many Christians, as well. A critical spirit is wrong because it carries with it a sense of pride and superiority (Luke 18:9-14). Also, it is often a cover up for my own heart issues (Jeremiah 17:9). The following are a few truths I've learned (and am doing my best to implement!), as I've studied the consequences and the cure for criticism in our lives:

1. Criticism \_\_\_\_\_ . Proverbs 15:1
2. Criticism \_\_\_\_\_ . Matthew 7:3-5
3. Criticism \_\_\_\_\_ . Proverbs 11:2
4. Criticism \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 66:18
5. Criticism \_\_\_\_\_ . Proverbs 28:13

Those consequences are eye opening! A critical spirit hurts every relationship in my life, including my relationship with God. How can I address it and change for God's glory?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 139:23-24
2. \_\_\_\_\_ . Proverbs 28:13
3. \_\_\_\_\_ . Philippians 2:5; 4:8

While food critics may get a pass when they are wrong, you and I will give an account to God for our critical spirit. So, let's admit when we've been wrong, ask God and who we've offended for forgiveness, and then determine to have the mind of Christ - a mind of humility and deference.

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1. Criticism hinders my relationship with others. Proverbs 15:1
2. Criticism hurts others. Matthew 7:3-5
3. Criticism hurts me. Proverbs 11:2
4. Criticism hurts my relationship with God. Psalm 66:18
5. Criticism stops God's blessings on my life. Proverbs 28:13

Those consequences are eye opening! A critical spirit hurts every relationship in my life, including my relationship with God. How can I address it and change for God's glory?

1. Ask God to search my heart. Psalm 139:23-24
2. Confess my sin (and forsake my sin). Proverbs 28:13
3. Change my thinking. Philippians 2:5; 4:8

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