

# Critical Spirit

## Confronting the Heart of a Critic



Job 1-2

Part 2



# Job 1-2

*"Curse God and die!"*

**The words spew out of the mouth of an embittered wife stunned by tragedy**

- **Gone ... Destroyed ... ALL their Possessions and ALL their Children as a Result of God's Allowing Satan to Test her Godly Husband  
in Order to Prove His Faith**
- **Job Mourns Their Losses but Still Trusts the Goodness of God**
- **He Submits Himself to the Sovereignty of God by Declaring, *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"* -Job 1:21**

# Job 1-2

**But ... *"Curse God and die!"* is her Reply, after seeing her husband suddenly stricken afflicted from head to toe with painful sores.**

○**She observes this once Respected man so Revered in the Community...  
...now sits in a pile of ashes scraping sores w- a jagged pottery**

○**Job's noble stance before the Lord is absolute nonsense to her.**

○**She doesn't want to hear one more word of devotion from her disease-ridden husband**

○**A critical spirit consumes the wife of the one whom God calls *"... the greatest man among all the people ..."***

○**She's had enough, and she wants Job ... and God ... to know it! (1:3)**

○***"Are you still maintaining your integrity?"* she unleashes her toxic tongue:  
*"Curse God and die!"* -Job 2:9**

# Critical Spirit

**The Bible is Not Silent about those who have a Critical Spirit ... those who sit in their Judgment Seat... Looking Down Arrogantly on Others...**

*•"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat." - Romans 14:10*

**A Critical Spirit is an Excessively Negative Attitude...**

**...Characterized by Harshness in Judging**

- Criticizers Judge Others Severely and Unfavorably**
- Hypercritical people judge others with unreasonably strict standards.**
- Faultfinders look for and point out flaws and defects with ...nagging and unreasonable criticism.**

# Critical Spirit

**Certain circumcised Jewish believers unjustly criticized Peter for fellowship with the uncircumcised. The issue of circumcision (was it necessary for salvation) created sharp division in the early church...**

*“So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him” -Acts 11:2*

**"Criticism"** Gk- *kritikos*, = *"able to discern or skilled in judging"*

## **Criticism has Two Different Meanings:**

- Speaking fairly with discernment in regard to merit or value (A literary *critic* is expected to give a fair critique by accurately analyzing, judging, and reporting.)
- Speaking unfairly with trivial or harsh judgments (A person with a *critical spirit* gives unfair criticism by faultfinding, nitpicking, and quibbling.)

## **•The Bible Stresses the Powerful Impact of Our Right and Wrong Words**

*"The tongue has the power of life and death" -Prov 18:21*

# What Is a Caring Spirit?

**Job's Friends Initially Demonstrate a Caring Spirit, Reflecting the Deep, Attentive Love of God in the Midst of Suffering.**

- **But then the Misguided Pride that Accompanies a Critical Spirit Consumes Them to the Degree that They are More Concerned with Delivering Theological Points than Showing Desperately Needed Compassion**

- **The Bible has Much to Say About Pride...**

  - ...including God's Heart Attitude Toward It**

*"... I hate pride/ arrogance, evil behavior / perverse speech" -Prov 8:13*

# What Is a Caring Spirit?

**One of our Deepest Needs is for Someone to Care About Us -Our Successes/ Failures... Our Strengths/ Weaknesses... Our Likes/ Dislikes... our Joys/ Sorrows ...How Blessed We Are When We Have People With Caring Spirits In Our Lives!**

**•But How Much More Secure We Feel When We Come to Know the Breadth/ the Depth of God's Love/ Care for Us**

*"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"* -Eph 3:17-19

# What Is a Caring Spirit?

**Caring Means Giving Watchful or Painstaking Attention Based on Desiring What is Best for Others**

**To Care Means to Be...**

- **Thoughtfully Attentive/ Protective**
- **Personally Interested in or Feeling Affection Toward Someone**
- **Actively Involved in Doing What is Best for Another Person**

**•The One Who Created You Gives Loving, *Watchful* Care Toward You**

*"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor..." -Hebrews 2:6-7*



# What Is a Caring Spirit?

## Caring People are Genuinely Interested in Showing Concern for Others

- **The Good Samaritan Took Care of the Savagely Beaten Traveler...**

*"He [a Samaritan] went to him/ bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn/ took care of him" -Luke 10:34*

- **Paul Cared for the New Christians Young in Their Faith...**

*"We were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children ..." -1 Thess 2:7*

- **The Christians in Philippi, Sent a Brother to Care for the Needs of Paul**

*"But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, coworker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs ... he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me" -Phil 2:25, 30*

