

"**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. ..." -**Proverbs 18:21**

What Is God's Heart On a Critical Spirit?

Throughout the long book of Job, God is mostly silent, speaking only at the beginning and at the end. But make no mistake about it — He doesn't miss a single word of conversation between Job and his three "friends."

Never assume that just because God is silent, He is absent. In the end, He speaks up and reveals His heart response to a critical spirit. ...

"One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend." -**Proverbs 22:11**

Jesus came to earth clothed in humanity in order to die for us, but He also came to show us the Father — in human flesh. He did that both by His actions and by His words. Therefore, if we want to know the Father's heart on the subject of a critical spirit, we need only examine the life of Jesus — or the way He behaved toward people and what He said to them. Clearly, He confronted sin in people's lives, but He did it compassionately — not with a critical or condemning spirit. He did it as the Father did it then and as He still does it now.

When it comes to interacting with others, the Lord wants us to examine our own conduct and motives. Jesus spoke unforgettable words with unforgettable imagery. ...

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." -**Matthew 7:1-5**

- **Don't** be judgmental or you too will be judged. *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."* -1

- **Don't** judge others or you will be judged in the same way and measured by the same standard.

"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." -2

- **Don't** focus on the small faults of others, before focusing on your own big faults.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" -3

- **Don't** talk to others about their faults while you ignore your own faults.

"How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?" -4

- **Don't** be hypocritical — correct your faults! Then you can correct someone else's faults!

"You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." -5

Luke, one of the Gospel writers, records Jesus saying very similar words ... *"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."* -**Luke 6:37**