Edward Christian Church Critical Spirit pt 5

"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
 - Speaking unfairly with trivial or harsh judgments- unfair criticism by faultfinding

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 Are the Differences Between a Critical Spirit/ a Caring Spirit?

The **bombardment** of **criticism** is getting to **Job**. He is **slipping** into **despair** and growing **cynical** - even of God and His justice. ..."It is all the same; that is why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.' When a scourge brings sudden death, he mocks the despair of the innocent. When a landfalls into the hands of the wicked, he blindfolds its judges. If it is not he, then who is it?" **-Job 9:22-24**

Job's **desperate** discouragement in the midst of righteous tribulation **demonstrates** the importance of manifesting a caring spirit to those in their darkest hours. **We are told to...**

"... walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." -Ephesians 5:2

Isn't it **interesting** how **differently** people **handle** the **same** situation ... sometimes in completely **opposite** ways? Two people **receive** the same bad news — one reacts **negatively** and the other reacts **positively**. **Two** people see someone make a **mistake**: One person **lacks mercy** and the other **extends mercy**.

Those with a critical spirit rarely focus on the needs of others — they're too busy focusing on the faults of

while the other build			

9 Distinct Differences

A CRITICAL SPIRIT		A CARING SPIRIT
• Condemns the person as well as the action	"The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." -Proverbs 12:18	• Condemns the action, but not the person
• Focuses on the faults of others	"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?" -Luke 6:41	• Focuses on your own faults
• Ridicules others	"Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue." Proverbs 11:12	• Encourages others
• Makes judgments based on appearances	"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." -John 7:24	• Makes judgments based on facts
• Assumes the worst without first hearing from the accused	"Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" -John 7:51	• Assumes the best while waiting to hear from the accused
• Tears others down without seeing their unmet needs	"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." -Eph 4:29	• Builds others up according to their inner needs
• Publicly criticizes those who have wronged them — without first going to them	"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over." -Matt 18:15	• Privately confronts those who have wronged them — by first going to them
• Reacts pridefully when given advice	"Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." -Prov 13:10	• Responds positively when given advice
• Lacks mercy toward others	"Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment." Ja 2:12-13	• Extends mercy toward others
The old saying is true:		
	"People don't care how much you know	

until they know how much you care."