

9 Distinct Differences

A CRITICAL 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**

- **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**

- **Ridicules** others

"Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue." **Proverbs 11:12**

- **Makes judgments** based on appearances

"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." -**John 7:24**

- **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**

- **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**

- **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**

- **Reacts pridefully** when given advice

"Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." -**Prov 13:10**

- **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**

A CARING SPIRIT

- **Condemns the action,** but not the person

- **Focuses on your own faults**

- **Encourages** others

- **Makes judgments** based on facts

- **Assumes the best** while waiting to hear from the accused

- **Builds others up** according to their inner needs

- **Privately confronts** those who have wronged them — by first going to them

- **Responds positively** when given advice

- **Extends mercy** toward others

The old saying is true:

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."