

Loving Those Overly Critical

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” - John 15:12 NIV

WRONG RESPONSES

RIGHT RESPONSE

- Never ignore the value of _____ criticism.

“If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself.”
- Proverbs 15:31-32 NLT

3 PRAYERS WHEN DEALING WITH CRITICISM

1. “God, Help Me Know When To _____ To criticism.”

Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, “Why have you treated us like this?” ...And they criticized him sharply. But he answered them. When the men of Ephraim heard Gideon’s answer, their anger subsided. - Judges 8:1-3 NIV

2. “God, Help Me Know When To _____ Criticism.”

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. - 1 Peter 2:23 NIV

“A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.” - Proverbs 19:11 NIV

3. “God, Help Me Overcome My _____ Spirit.”

“Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.” - Proverbs 12:18 NLT

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. - Philippians 2:14 NLT

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- What is the most ridiculous criticism you’ve received?
- How long has it been since you were last criticized?
- How do you typically respond to constructive criticism? How has it benefitted you?
- Think about some of the most critical people you know. What do you think causes all their criticism?
- Which do you struggle with more—being overly critical or being overly sensitive to criticism? How do you think this came about?
- Read Proverbs 12:18. What are the most common reasons you look down on others or cut them down? What will you do to start bringing healing instead?