

The background is a solid dark red color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art elements that resemble circuit board traces or neural network connections. These lines are thin and end in small circles, creating a modern, technical aesthetic.

OVERCOMING A CRITICAL SPIRIT

Shiloh Fire Service

MATTHEW 7:1-5 NKJV

“Judge[a] not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what [b]judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

What is a Critical Spirit

1. Do you always criticize and pass judgment on others?
 - a. Do you find yourself with a negative disposition, always finding fault with something or someone?
 - b. Is it difficult for you to see the positive in a person or a situation?
 - c. Do you have a compulsion to always give your critical point of view for the good of everyone?
 - d. Do you always gossip, slander, criticize or complain?
 - e. If you answer yes to these questions, then you may have a critical spirit

What is a Critical Spirit

2. A critical spirit is like an acid that burns everything it touches; It is caustic and scalding and eats away at everything that comes across its path.
3. A critical spirit is blind to anything good in anyone or any situation except in itself. It has no empathy and condemns oftentimes harshly.
4. A “critical spirit,” is an obsessive attitude of criticism and fault-finding, which seeks to tear others down.

What is a Critical Spirit

5. A critical spirit is always looking for flaws, faults and what is wrong in other people, their actions, their activities and their dressings etc.
 - a. They are always complaining, condemning and cynical.
 - b. They often have little control over their tongue, their temper, and have tendencies for gossip and slander: Prov.20:19; 1 Peter 2:1
 - c. They steal the joy from everything that is not perfect and everyone that falls short of their expectations.

PROVERBS 20:19 NIV

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

1 PETER 2:1

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

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6. To the critical spirit they have a standard of perfection in their minds that everyone must meet and anyone that falls short of that standard is unacceptable and must be cut down.
 - a. Now it's okay to have a standard but it is not okay to impose your standard on everyone and condemn them because they did not meet your standard.
 - b. The bible has a standard, but the bible does not condemn you because you do not meet the standard. The Bible gives room for grace that if you fail this time you can get up and try again. Prov.24:16

PROVERBS 24:16 NKJV

*For a righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again, But the wicked shall fall
by calamity.*

What is a Critical Spirit

7. A critical spirit does not give room for grace.
 - a. The critical spirit, tears down, condemns, writes off and blames.
 - b. It devours many an honest effort, loving gesture and kind deed without apology.
 - c. Those in relationship with one who possesses a critical spirit are always trying and always falling short.
 - d. Eventually they stop trying altogether because the pressure of an impossible standard are too heavy to bear.

What is a Critical Spirit

8. Does this mean that we should turn a blind eye to everything we see that is wrong?
 - a. No. We are called to counsel, advise, correct, rebuke and even discipline but only in love. Prov.13:24: 2Tim.2:24-25:
 - b. It means the motive for correcting should be love not anger, pride, or fear. Php.2:3
 - c. It means the tone for correcting should be love and grace. Col.4:6
 - d. If you cannot correct in love do not correct. Pray. Eph.4:29

PROVERBS 13:24 NKJV

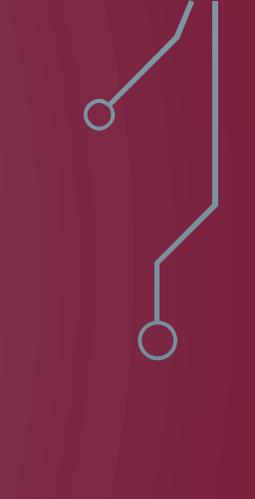
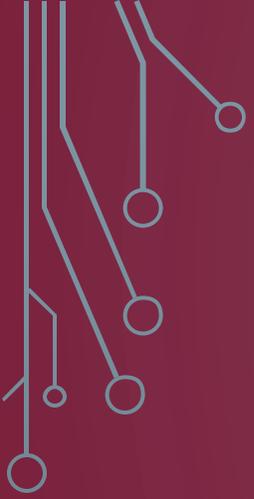
He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him [a]promptly

2 TIMOTHY 2:24-25

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

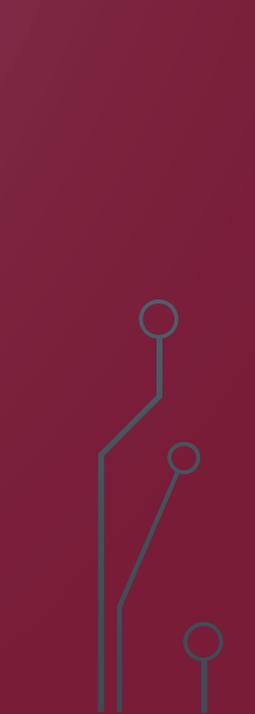
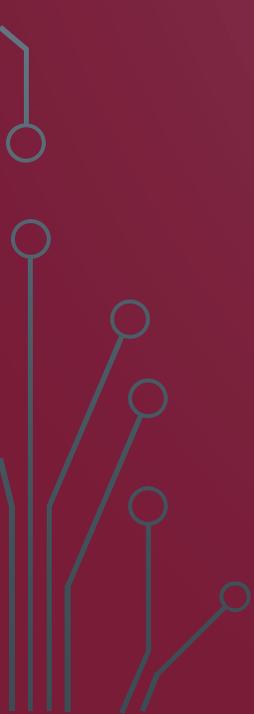
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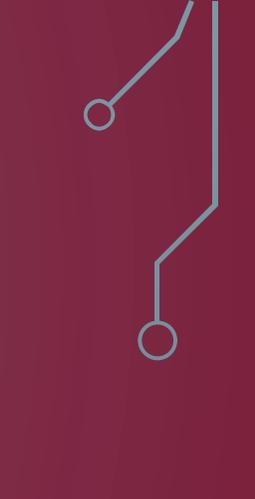
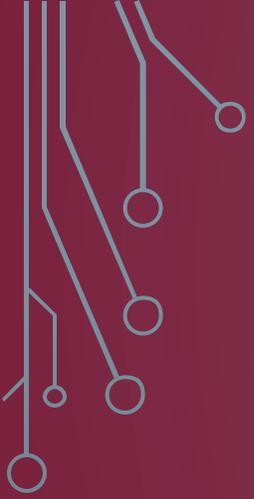
PHILIPPIANS 2:3 NKJV

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.



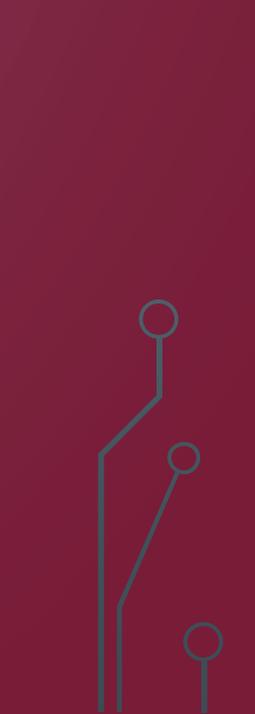
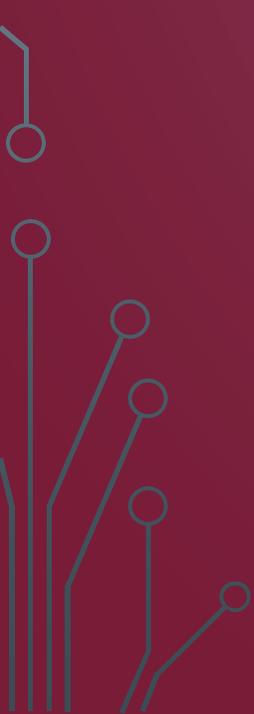
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COLOSSIANS 4:6 NKJV

*Let your speech always be with grace,
seasoned with salt, that you may know
how you ought to answer each one.*



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EPHESIANS 4:29 NKJV

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary [a]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

What Are The Roots Of A Critical Spirit

1. **Negativity:** Someone with a negative spirit will sooner or later develop a critical spirit. People that are always negative tend to become more critical of others. It is a natural progression.
2. **Self, Pride and perfection:** Those suffering from selfishness, pride, and who are perfectionist tend to develop Critical spirits. Ps.101:5
3. **Ingratitude.** A thankless person is a griping, grumbling and complaining person. Instead of being grateful they weigh everything against their imagined standard of perfection or expectation and if it falls short they complain and criticize and blame. Gratitude is the mother of all virtues. 1Thess.5:18

PSALM 101:5 NKJV

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 NKJV

*in everything give thanks; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

What Are The Roots Of A Critical Spirit

4. Obsession or oppression by a critical spirit. There are people that are under the spell or oppression of a critical or judgmental spirit.
 - a. There is a demonic mandate on their tongues to cut down and tear down and be critical and in the process divine the lives of those they speak to.
 - b. It is a spirit of divination that often times pretends to be prophetic but never prophesies anything good.
 - c. Their tongues are like serpents, poisonous and acidic. They are sowing seeds of fear so they can manipulate and control your life.
 - d. They poison your relationships so they can isolate you

What Are The Roots Of A Critical Spirit

5. Insecurities which produce envies and jealousies: Criticism is often a subconscious means to “elevate one’s own self image.” By putting others down, they are inwardly trying to feel more important or that “they know more.” Jealousy toward or envy of the spiritual victories of others is often the cause of criticism and belittling comments.
6. An unrenewed mind: a critical spirit is evidence of an unrenewed mind. Put-downs, making-fun-of, criticism, sarcasm are the world’s ways of reacting to the faults of people. Rom. However, as Christians we don’t behave this way. 12:2.

ROMANS 12:2 NKJV

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

ALTAR CALL

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and I need you to save me. I believe you died for me and rose up on the third day that I may be justified. Today I confess and repent of all my sins; forgive me Lord Jesus; come into my heart Lord Jesus; be my Lord and savior; from today I promise to serve you in the name of Jesus

Contact us – Shilohttop@gmail.com or www.shilohttop.com

ROMANS 14:13 NKJV

*Therefore let us not judge one another
[a]anymore, but rather resolve this, not to
put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in
our brother's way.*

PRAYER 1

Father in the name of Jesus, I repent of every negative, critical or destructive word or thought that I may have sown, that may have become a stumbling block in the lives of others; I uproot and destroy the limiting power of those thoughts or words in the life of those people in the name of Jesus. Rom.14:10,13; Matt.18:6; Lk.8:11; Gal.6:7-8;

JAMES 3:6 NKJV

And the tongue is a fire, a world of [a]iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of [b]nature; and it is set on fire by [c]hell.

PRAYER 2

Father in the name of Jesus, let every compulsive, negative, critical and destructive mandate or spell placed upon my tongue or on that of any member of this church be destroyed by fire today; you critical and negative spirit, I bind you and cast you out of my life and that of every member of this church in the name of Jesus. Father by the fire from the altar of heaven sanctify my tongue and that of every member of this church to declare only the word of God from today in the name of Jesus. Isa.6:7; Jam.3:6;

LUKE 6:45 NKJV

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil [a]treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 NKJV

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

PRAYER 3

Father in the name of Jesus, by revelation, I pull down every stronghold of negativity, ingratitude, pride, insecurities and selfishness in my life and that of every member of this church, that is powering this critical attitude and subject every thought to the dominion of the word of God in the name of Jesus. 2Cor.10:3-5; Lk.6:45;

COLOSSIANS 3:16 NKJV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

PRAYER 4

Father in the name of Jesus, empower me and every member of this church to renew our minds by the word of God and discipline our thoughts; endue each one of us with the spirit of love, so that our communication will be seasoned with grace, humility and gentility in the name of Jesus. Rom.12:2; Ps.119:97; Jos.1:8; Col.3:16; 4:6; Eph.4:29; 2Tim.2:24-25; 1Cor.13:4-7;

PRAYER 5

Now Pray for yourself. For your specific need. For your expectation this month and this year. Jer.33:3

JEREMIAH 33:3

‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and [a]mighty things, which you do not know.’