

Biblical Leadership Principles

Session - 4 How to Handle Criticism

As a leader you have the great responsibility to make important and often difficult _____.

It's often the case that someone won't _____ or be happy about it.

Our first responsibility is to _____.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Even when others don't _____ or _____ we must strive to obey God.

Acts 5:29 ESV

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men..."

If you are not being criticized, you may want to consider whether you have slipped from leading to _____.

"There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing." - Aristotle

_____ Criticism

_____ Criticism

Limit your _____ to criticism until you have had time to _____ it and to _____ over it and think it over.

Don't respond _____ to constructive criticism.

Don't allow criticism to stop you from achieving your God-given _____ and _____

Take criticism and use it to make necessary _____ and to _____ as a leader and influencer.

Three questions to ask when processing criticism:

1. _____ criticized me? Adverse criticism from a wise person is more to be desired than the enthusiastic approval of a fool. The source often matters.
2. How was it _____? I try to discern whether the person was being hostile or judgmental, or whether he gave me the benefit of the doubt and spoke with kindness.
3. _____ was it given? Was it given out of a personal hurt or for my benefit? Hurting people hurt people; they lash out or criticize to try to make themselves feel better, not to help the other person. But criticism can also come because people are genuinely trying to help.

Prov 17:10

A rebuke impresses a discerning person more than a hundred lashes a fool.

Two temptations are ready to snatch away the seeds of growth which we can and should experience when facing right as well as wrong criticism:

1. We can r _____ all we've heard instantly and _____ it
2. We can _____ all of our feelings and either wallow in defeat or build up our defenses for the next time it comes round. Neither is godly.