

People are CRAZY

HOW DO WE HANDLE HATERS?

1. DON'T! YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND

1 Peter 2:23

*When they **hurled their insults at him** [Jesus], **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him** who judges justly.*

Proverbs 19:11

*A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to **overlook an offense**.*

"Your role is to OBEY God not to ANSWER to critics"

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2. RESPOND CAREFULLY - EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO REACT

Judges 8:1-2

*Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?" And they **challenged him vigorously. But he answered them...***

Judges 8:3

*...When the men of Ephraim **heard Gideon's answer, their anger subsided.***

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2. RESPOND CAREFULLY - EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO REACT

3. ONCE IN A WHILE LISTEN AND MAKE A CHANGE

Prov 15:31-32

*If you **listen to constructive criticism**, you will be **at home among the wise**. If you reject discipline, **you only harm yourself...***

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2. RESPOND CAREFULLY - EVEN THOUGH YOU WANT TO REACT
3. ONCE IN A WHILE LISTEN AND MAKE A CHANGE
4. ALWAYS WORK TO GUARD YOUR HEART

Prov 12:18

*Some people make **cutting remarks**, but **the words of the wise bring healing**.*

The heart of a HATER: Pride—Ignorance—Hurt

1 John 5:4-5

*You see, every **child of God overcomes** the world, for our faith is the victorious power that triumphs over the world. So who are the **world conquerors**, defeating its power? Those who **believe** that **Jesus is the Son of God**.*

WHO I am matters more than what they THINK

Romans 14:10-13

*So why do you **condemn another believer**? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God..." Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. **So let's stop condemning each other**.*

Talk it over:

1. Which do you struggle with more? Being overly critical or being overly sensitive to criticism? How/why do you think this is your natural "bent"?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:23. What is your take-away from this scripture?
3. What are the most common reasons you look down on others, or cut them down? What will you commit to do to start bringing healing instead?
4. How do you see this message helping you grow in your faith and ability to share the message of Christ?