



**CRITICAL
SPIRIT**

What is a critical spirit?

- A critical spirit is an excessively negative attitude characterized by harshness in judging.
- Criticism comes from the Greek word *KRITIKOS*, which means “*able to discern or skilled in judging.*”

Criticism has two different meanings:

- ✓ Speaking fairly with discernment in regard to merit or value.
- ✓ Speaking unfairly with trivial or harsh judgments.

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death.

- Job's friends begin with good intentions.

Job 2:11-13 When three of Job's friends heard of the tragedy he had suffered, they got together and traveled from their homes to comfort and console him. Their names were Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. ¹² When they saw Job from a distance, they scarcely recognized him. Wailing loudly, they tore their robes and threw dust into the air over their heads to show their grief. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. No one said a word to Job, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.

- Job's three friends begin to assume that Job is being disciplined by God because of sin and that the wise way for Job to proceed is to submit to the discipline.
Job 5:8 *If I were you, I would go to God and present my case to him."*
- Job's wife turns up after the final blow, after Job has been struck with boils. Seeing her husband sitting in the dust, scraping his sores silently, she bursts out,
Job 2:9 "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die."

1. Don't be judgmental or you too will be judged.

Matthew 7:1-5 (v.1)

“Do no judge, or you too will be judged.”

2. Don't judge others or you will be judged in the same way and measured by the same standard.

Matthew 7:1-5 (v.2)

“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**3. Don't focus on the small faults of others,
before focusing on your own big faults.**

Matthew 7:1-5 (v.3)

“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?”

4. Don't talk to others about their faults while you ignore your own faults.

Matthew 7:1-5 (v.4)

“How can you say to your brothers, “Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank your own eye?”

**5. Don't be hypocritical – correct your faults!
Then you can correct someone else's faults.**

Matthew 7:1-5 (v.5)

“You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

THE SMOKE SCREEN

S- Spreading harmful gossip with the justification that “everyone ought to know”

M- Making others feel embarrassed about their success while secretly envying them

O- Objecting to criticism from others to avoid personal accountability

K- Kidding someone with the intent to hurt

E- Engaging in “constructive criticism” when the criticism is in no way constructive.



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