



**A CRITICAL  
SPIRIT  
WEEK 2**

# 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.*

**1. A CRITICAL SPIRIT - condemns the person as well as the action.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – Condemns the action, but not the person.**

Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)

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



**2. A CRITICAL SPIRIT - focuses on the faults of others.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – focuses on your own faults.**

Luke 6:41

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?

**3. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – Ridicules others.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – encourages others.**

Proverbs 11:12

Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense,  
but the one who has understanding holds  
their tongue.

**4. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – Makes judgments based on appearances.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – Makes judgments based on facts.**

John 7:24

Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

**5. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – assumes the worst without first hearing from the accused.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – Assumes the best while waiting to hear from the accused.**

John 7:51

Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?



**6. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – tears others down without seeing their unmet needs.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – builds others up according to their inner needs.**

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.



**7. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – reacts pridefully when given correction.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – responds positively when given correction.**

Proverbs 13:10

Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

**8. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – publicly criticizes those who have wronged them without first going to them.**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – privately confronts those who have wronged them, by first going to them.**

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

## **9. A CRITICAL SPIRIT – Lacks mercy toward others**

**\*A CARING SPIRIT – extends mercy toward others.**

James 2:12-13 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup> because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.





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