



PART 1: CRITICAL PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

We've all had people who push our buttons. These people are the hardest people to love. We have people in our lives who are critical, hypocritical, manipulative, or over-need. Dealing with these people is one of the biggest challenges in life. But there are some incredible truths from Scripture that help us know how to deal with them people and love them like Jesus loves them.

BIBLE VERSES

Proverbs 15:31-32

Acts 11:1-4

Acts 11:9

Acts 11:17-18

Proverbs 15:1

1 Peter 2:23

Proverbs 12:18

Ephesians 4:15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When do people get under your skin? What "pushes your buttons?" What are your pet peeves?
2. Describe a time when somebody criticized you. How did you feel? How did you respond? What is your natural response to critical people?
3. In responding to critical people, do you tend to talk "at" them or talk "with" them?
4. Read Proverbs 15:1 Why is it important to respond to critical people by carefully considering your words and talking with them rather than just reacting to them? How have you personally experienced the truth of this verse?
5. Pastor Will taught, "becoming preoccupied with what people think about you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you." What does God think about you? Describe a time when you've struggled to believe what God thinks about you because you were preoccupied with what other people think about you.

MOVING FORWARD

Three prayers to pray when dealing with criticism:

1. God, help me know when to respond to criticism.
2. God, help me know when to dismiss invalid criticism.
3. God, help me to overcome my own critical nature.

Will you commit to praying these prayers when you are confronted with critical people or your own critical nature this week? Who will you ask to hold you accountable in this area?