

HAND ME ANOTHER BRICK – Part IX
“Critics and Criticism Matters”
Reference: **Nehemiah 4:1-3**
Pastor Larry Webb

This is a lesson about Nehemiah and his critics. His primary critics were Sanballat and his associate, Tobiah. There is some interesting background on those men.

Reference: **Nehemiah 2:10** (see screen)

Sanballat was a _____ and Tobiah was an _____.

Reference: **Genesis 19:36-38** (see screen)

Lesson: Sin can have _____ consequences.

Those men represented some of the residual, ongoing consequences from Lot’s sin, meaning that incestuous sin was still creating problems for the people in Jerusalem some 14.5 centuries after it was first committed.

verse one and **two** (see screen)

Both Sanballat and Tobiah used two defensive mechanisms in response to what Nehemiah was attempting to do in Jerusalem.

The first defensive mechanism that Sanballat used is called _____.

Definition: This first defensive mechanism is where someone _____ on the outside the exact opposite of how he feels on the inside.

verse three(see screen)

The second defensive mechanism that Tobiah used is called _____.

Definition: This second defensive mechanism is where someone _____ himself with someone else in order to better his position with that person.

Criticism exists in two basic forms:

- _____ criticism
This criticism is intended to _____ someone.
- _____ criticism
This criticism is intended to cause _____ to someone.

Question: How do we determine if someone’s criticism is constructive or destructive?

Step one is to consider the _____.
Reference: **Proverbs 27:5-6** (see screen)

Four times when someone’s criticism is especially hurtful:
One, criticism hurts when it comes from someone in _____.

Two, criticism hurts when it questions our _____.

Three, criticism hurts when it comes from people that have known us for a _____.

Four, criticism hurts when it is _____.

Step two is to consider the _____.
Constructive criticism comes from a positive perspective; whereas, destructive criticism tends to be more negative in nature.

Notice that Nehemiah **didn’t** _____ his critics.