

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM CRITICISM

Reference: **Proverbs 1:23-25**

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Definition: Criticism means to _____ and to _____ . There are two basic forms of criticism:

ONE is _____ criticism

This is criticism that is intended to _____ someone.

Principle: Practice doesn't make _____, but practice makes _____.

CHARACTER QUALITIES

Alertness	Love
Appreciation	Loyalty
Compassion	Objectivity
Confidentiality	Patience
Consistency	Peacefulness
Cooperativeness	Punctuality
Courtesy	Self-Control
Creativity	Sense of Humor
Dependability	Sensitivity
Discernment	Sincerity
Discipline	Submissiveness
Efficiency	Tactfulness
Enthusiasm	Teachability
Faithfulness	Thoroughness
Flexibility	Thoughtfulness
Gentleness	Tolerance
Honesty	Unselfishness
Humility	Understanding
Initiative	

There are two basic forms of constructive criticism:

- _____ criticism from Scripture
Reference: **II Timothy 3:16**, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof (constructive criticism), for correction (constructive criticism), for instruction in righteousness.*"

- _____ criticism from someone else
Reference: **Proverbs 25:12**, “*Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker (a constructive critic) to an obedient ear.*”

Biblical examples of someone being criticized:

Samuel criticized _____
Reference: **I Samuel 13:13-14**

Nathan criticized _____
Reference: **II Samuel 12:1-14**

God criticized _____
Reference: **Job 38:1-42:2**

Jesus criticized _____
Reference: **Matthew 16:23**

Paul criticized the **Christians** at _____
Reference: **I Corinthians 3:1-2**

TWO is _____ criticism
This criticism is intended to inflict emotional _____ onto someone.

Question: How is someone able to determine if the criticism is constructive or destructive in nature?

Answer: The answer to this question is found in two distinct parts.

Part one is to consider the _____

Reference: **Proverbs 27:5** and **6**
verse five, “*Open rebuke (criticism) is better than love carefully concealed.*”
verse six, “*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*”

Solomon uses the term “wounds” to describe the results from someone’s criticism. Someone said that there are four times when criticism hurts the most.

- Criticism hurts when it comes from someone in a _____.
- Criticism hurts when it questions our _____.

- Criticism hurts when it comes from people that have _____ for a long time.
- Criticism hurts when it is _____.

“*What a blessing...an inestimable blessing is it to have a faithful friend! Satan is ready enough to point out whatever good we have; but it is only a faithful friend that will screen that from our sight, and show us our _____.*” Henry Venn

Part two is to consider the _____

Proverbs chapter one describes someone that reacts to (not responds to) criticism, and if we are careful not to repeat these four wrongful reactions, then we can learn to benefit from criticism.

- I. is to be _____
verse twenty-four a, “*Because I (wisdom) have called and you refused.*”

This word “refused” in the original Hebrew language is most often used in the Old Testament to mean a refusal to _____ to authority.

Reference: **I Samuel 15:23**, “*For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and **stubbornness** is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have **rejected** the Word of the LORD...*”

- II. is to be _____
verse twenty-four b, “*I have stretched out my hand and **no one regarded.***”
- III. is to be _____
verse twenty-five a, “*Because **you disdained** all my counsel...*”
- IV. is to be _____
verse twenty-five b, “*and **would have none** of my rebuke (criticism).*”