

Reading: Exodus 14:10-14; 27-31

Topic: Dealing With Criticism
In Ministry

INTRODUCTION: When one becomes involved in _____ and leadership, there is a strong possibility that one will face criticism from somewhere at some _____ along the way.

I. EVERYONE HAS CRITICS:

A. In the Word of God:

1. When you read the Word of God, you can find many great _____ who were chosen by God and all of them had _____ who spoke negatively of them.
2. Moses was one of the greatest leaders that was chosen and _____ of God to lead His people but he had _____ who spoke negatively about him on a number of occasions. Ex. 14:11,12; 16:2,3
3. The list of leaders and ministers who had to deal with criticism is very _____ - David, most of the prophets of the Old Testament, the Apostles and even _____ Himself. Mark 3:21,22

B. You Will Have Critics:

1. No matter how hard you try to be _____, you are not and you have _____ just like everyone else, and there will be someone somewhere who may _____ on your imperfections and give you some criticism. Rom. 7:18
2. When criticism comes your way, there is a _____ way and a _____ way to respond to it and to deal with it.
3. If we become mature in our _____ with God, we can actually benefit from some constructive criticism and learn and _____ from it.

II. WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN CRITICIZED:

A. Immediately Attack The Critic:

1. Our natural human response to criticism is to go after the critic and _____ back, usually in anger and frustration, which does not _____ anyone, including ourselves. James 1:19,20
2. Attacking the critic immediately after the criticism usually only adds fuel to the _____ and gives satisfaction to the critic who is smugly happy that he/she got under our skin. I Pet. 2:21-23

B. Appease The Critic:

1. Some leaders want to make all the people _____ all of the time, so instead of moving forward to do the will of God, they will instead change direction to make the critic _____.
2. Appeasing the critics will never make them _____, and it will also deter the leader or minister from accomplishing the _____ of God in the ministry that they are involved in.

C. Ignore An Opportunity To Learn:

1. Whether we realize it or not, an attack of criticism can actually _____ us with an opportunity to learn something positive about ourselves and our _____ in Christ.
2. Criticism can be a teaching _____ when we use the Scripture as a filter for the criticism, and not take everything personally, knowing that Jesus was also strongly criticized by people. Lk. 6:6-11

III. WHAT TO DO WHEN CRITICIZED:

A. Consider the Source:

1. When you receive criticism, it is important to consider the person or persons that are _____ the criticism to evaluate your _____.
2. If the person who is delivering the criticism is unfaithful to the church, is unstable in their _____ with God, and has a _____ reputation, you may not take the criticism too seriously.
3. If the criticism is coming from a stable and mature individual, you should _____ it seriously and pray about the situation to _____ if there is something that you need to change. Acts 6:1-5

B. Listen Before Responding:

1. Some criticism has no basis or validity and is only coming from the _____ of some bitter individual but some criticism may have a point to _____ so it is important to learn to listen.
2. Listen respectfully and control your natural impulse to _____ immediately. Prov. 16:32

C. Analyze The Criticism:

1. There are some questions to consider when analyzing the criticism:
 - a. Is it _____?
 - b. Am I at _____ in this situation?
 - c. Is there something that I need to _____?
2. Mature leaders and ministers are willing to admit mistakes and to recognize the _____ for improvement, understanding that unity and _____ is the goal of every ministry. Phil. 3:12

D. Answer The Criticism:

1. Serious criticism is like a question that needs to be _____, so it may be necessary to respond to the critic or critics in some way.
2. You may have to disagree with the criticism that you have received and you may do so in an _____ manner by offering a clear explanation of why they are _____ about your actions.
3. If there is some validity to the criticism, you may _____ the critics for bringing the situation to your attention and make positive _____ in the situation.

CONCLUSION: It would be nice if there were no critics in the _____ of God, but we deal with carnal people as well as _____ people and criticism is inevitable at times. The important thing as the leader or minister that we respond in a _____ that will be pleasing to God and produce more growth in us and in our ministry.