



THE ROADBLOCK OF A CRITICAL SPIRIT
JAMES 4:11-12
Pastor Mike Turner

A critical spirit blocks our spiritual growth because it grows out of an attitude of judgment instead of a heart of grace.

Understanding a critical spirit

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (James 4:11)

There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4:12)

And the tongue is a fire a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is a set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. (James 3:6)

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. (James 3:14)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (James 4:1)

Judge not, that you be not judged. (Matthew 7:1)

For with the judgement you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7:2)

Why do you pass judgement on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. (Romans 14:10)

A critical spirit is an attitude of pride and superiority that finds fault in others, tearing them down instead of building them up, and feeds your ego at the expense of your soul.

Experiencing a critical spirit

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. (Luke 18:9-10)



"The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' (Luke 18:11-12)

"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' (Luke 18:13)

"I tell you the truth, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (John 8:10-11)

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

Overcoming a critical spirit

Recognize your own faults

Why do you see the speck that is in your brothers' eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother: "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? (Matthew 7:3-4)

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. (Matthew 7:5)

Remember what you've been saved from

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ Jesus forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Nurture a thankful heart

...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20)

Grow in love

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)



Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Cultivate a larger view of the world

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!
Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers who do his will! (Psalm 103:20-21)

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!
(Psalm 103:22)

A critical spirit blocks our spiritual growth because it grows out of an attitude of judgment instead of a heart of grace.