

“Handling Criticism”

November 17, 2013

REVIEW:

- When He “disciplines” us—He’s not calling us out—He’s calling us **UP**.
- The “upward call” (Phil. 3:14) is the call to live a *“brimming over life.”*
- The capacity to “brim over” is the result of H.S. (SEE 2 Cor. 3:18)
 - “Brimming over” with FEARLESS love is His work in us
 - SEE Psalm 23:4 *The Passion Translation*

PROP- One of the greatest ways to live a life *“brimming over”* with the nature of Jesus is the ability to handle criticism & conflict in a healthy way.

“Proverbs”- *a parable expressing wisdom; also, to reign in life*

“Wisdom”- *success in living (knowing what to do with what you know) “You will receive discipline to demonstrate wisdom in every relationship” (Prov. 1:3 TPT)*

1. AVOID UNHEALTHY REACTIONS TO CRITICISM

- **Defensive:** Totally rejecting all criticism.
 - *“Welcoming correction will make you brilliant” (Proverbs 15:5)*
 - *“The heart of the wise will easily accept instruction; but the one who does all the talking is too busy to listen and learn.” (Pr. 10:8)*
- **Condemned:** Completely accepting and dwelling on every critical comment. (i.e., screen door)
 - *“Test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1)*
 - *“Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thess. 5:21-22)*
 - *NOTE: Jesus’ two different responses to Peter in Matthew 16*
- **Offended:** Then spread my offense to others.
 - We can spread strife & slander (Prov. 10:18- *“Foolish”- total disregard for consequences*)
 - Or we can spread the *“fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus” (2 Corinthians 2:14)*

2. LISTEN.

- **Solomon:** *“Give me a hearing heart”*
- **Proverbs 10:17-** *“If you readily receive correction—you are walking on the path to life. But if you reject rebuke you’re guaranteed to go astray.”*
- **Proverbs 18:13-** *“Listen before you speak. For to speak before you’ve heard the facts will bring humiliation!”*

3. GIVE FEEDBACK (IN ORDER TO PROCESS WHAT IS BEING SAID).

- *“The one with a wise heart is called ‘Discerning.’” (Proverbs 16:21)*
- **Discerning**—*to learn together with.*
- **Isaiah 1:18**- *“Come, let us reason together.”*

4. LEARN FROM WHAT YOU DISCERN.

- *Proverbs 12:1- “To learn the truth you must long to be teachable, or you can despise correction and remain ignorant”*
- (ESV) *“There are times when even the wise need correction, but they will appreciate its value”*
- *Proverbs 25:12- “To humbly receive wise correction adorns your life with beauty and makes you a better person.”*
- *Proverbs 13:18- “Poverty and disgrace comes to the one who refuses to hear criticism, but the one who is easy to correct is on the path of honor.”*

CONCLUSION

Criticism can be CONSTRUCTIVE or DESTRUCTIVE. Criticism is not “negative”—it involves sharing a crucial word at a critical time. (i.e., “Critical Care Unit”—it is *critical* that you *care*!!!)

STRIFE-INDUCING ACCUSATION

*“Strife” - to have a contest with
(To keep a state of controversy)*

- *Opponents (*“at you”*)
- *Attacks a person
- **“Breeds contention” (Pr. 13:10)*

**“Hatred keeps old quarrels alive”
(Proverbs 10:12)*

LIFE-GIVING REBUKE

*“Rebuke” - to reason together with
(Bring to a conclusion; common conviction)*

- *Teammates (*“with you”*)
- *Addresses an issue
- **“Brings wisdom” (Pr. 13:10)*

**“but love draws a veil over every
insult” (Proverbs 10:12)*

“Great is the man who can **accept criticism**. **Greater yet** is he who **welcomes it**. But **greatest of all** is he who **knows how to administer it** in a spirit of **love and sensitivity** without causing **pain or humiliation.**” (Norman Lamm)

PROVERBS 15:31-33 The Passion Translation