

**A HOLIDAY SURVIVAL GUIDE TO
"CRITICAL PEOPLE"
WAVE CHURCH SD | NOV. 29, 2020**

NEVER IGNORE THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Proverbs 9:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 15:31-33 (ESV) ³¹ The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. ³² Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. ³³ The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

TWO RESPONSES TO CRITICISM

- GET DEFENSIVE + ATTACK = ONLY HURTS YOURSELF
- TAKE IT TO GOD + IS THIS TRUE? = WISDOM, HUMILITY, HONOR

THREE PRAYERS FOR THE CRITICS IN OUR LIVES

1. GOD, HELP ME KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO CRITICISM

Proverbs 26:4-5 (NLT) ⁴ Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are. ⁵ Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.

Judges 8:1-3 (ESV) Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they accused him fiercely. ² And he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the grape harvest of Abiezer? ³ God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What have I been able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger against him subsided when he said this.

WHEN TO RESPOND AND WHEN NOT TO RESPOND TO CRITICISM

- Have you taken the criticism to the Lord? Lord, how should I respond?
- Is it true? Yes – humbly accept it.
- Is it false? Yes – Will your response be profitable? Does your critic have a closed heart, an open heart?

2. GOD, HELP ME TO DISMISS WORTHLESS CRITICISM

1 Peter 2:19-23 (ESV) ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Why do we take criticism so personally?

**WE TEND TO ELEVATE THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS
ABOVE THE OPINIONS OF GOD**

3. GOD, HELP ME OVERCOME MY OWN CRITICAL NATURE

Proverbs 12:18 (ESV) There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- WE NEED TO LEARN GOD'S LANGUAGE OF GRACE = GOSPEL
- PREACH THE GOSPEL TO YOURSELF DAILY, OTHERWISE YOU FORGET IT!

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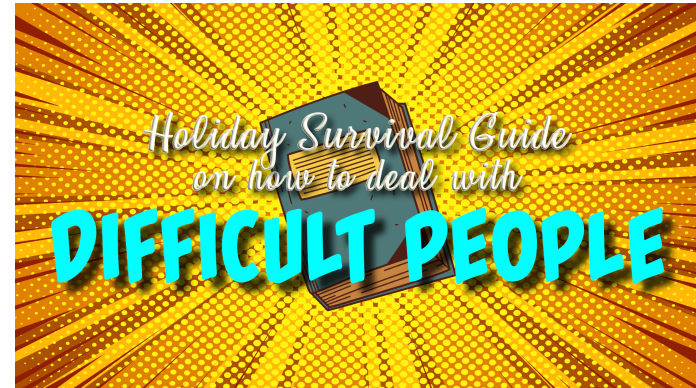
ADVENT SEASON

OUR GIFT TO YOU | ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The beginning of the Advent season is nearly upon us, and we have a free gift for you and your family. *Come Let Us Adore Him* is a 21-day advent devotional by Paul David Tripp, and we have a copy for each family. If you are joining us in person on Sundays, we will have them available for pick up; if you are online with us during this season, please fill out a communication card via the app, tell us that you would like a book, and we will get one to you!

Welcome To Wave Church

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