

~RCW~

# DEALING WITH CRITICAL PEOPLE

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## Steps to Dealing with Critical People.

### 1. I have to deal with the FACTS.

Three facts about dealing with difficult people:

- The world is full of difficult people!

Matthew 18:7 “For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 “You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that.”

(people who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols.)

- God commands me to deal with difficult people:

Romans 12:18 “Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”

- I grow as I learn to deal with difficult people:  
Proverbs 27:17 “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

Proverbs 27:20 “A man is tested by the praise he receives.”

## 2. I have to deal with MYSELF.

Matthew 7:1-5 Jesus said, “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to **deal with** the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Hebrews 12:14 “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

### 3. I have to deal with the CRITICISM.

Three ways to deal with the criticism:

- Listen

Proverbs 15:31-32 “If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.”

VALID criticism is VALUABLE

*Ask – is this person trying to help me?  
Does he have the knowledge I need?*

- Answer

John 7:15-16 “The Jews there were amazed and asked, ‘How did this man get such learning without having been taught?’

Jesus answered, ‘My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.’”

*Ask – is this person missing information? Is he open to my response?*

- Ignore

Matthew 15:13-14 “Jesus replied, ‘Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind...they will both fall into a ditch.’”

*Ask – is this person overly critical? Is he out to wound? Is he wounded himself?*

Romans 12:17-19 “Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear

friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, 'I will take revenge; I will pay them back,' says the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 2:4 "For we speak as messengers who have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people."

Memory Verse for this week:

Romans 12:18 "Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone."