

CAN'T WE ALL JUST
GET ALONG?



“Manage the Criticism”

NEHEMIAH 2, 4, & 6

- I. Introduction to the Series
- II. Who God Is as a Reconciler
- III. Who We Are In Conflict
 - A. What Is the Cause of Conflict?
 - B. What Should Motivate Us to Resolve Conflict?
- IV. How We Must Respond – 5 Ways
 - A. Disarm Your Anger
 - B. Be a Peacemaker
 - C. Be Forgiving
 - D. Manage the Criticism**
 - E. Learn the Righteous Way to Disagree

1. “to find fault with” or “to point out the faults of something”
2. when someone renders judgment unfairly, unfavorably, or is faultfinding

What Is Criticism?

1. Wrong in content and in delivery
2. Partially right in content but wrong in delivery
3. Partially right in content and right in delivery
4. Altogether right in content and wrong in delivery
5. Altogether right in content and right in delivery

**Criticism Can Come in
One of the Following Five Ways**

¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you...

Ezekiel 28:14-17

...sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you."

Ezekiel 28:14-17

*¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman,
Did God actually say,
“You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?*

⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:1, 5

1. The Hebrews in the wilderness criticizing Moses (Exodus 5:21; 16:2-3; Numbers 10; 14; 16)
2. Miriam and Aaron criticizing Moses (Numbers 12)
3. Absalom criticizing his father David (II Samuel 15)
4. Shimei criticizing King David (II Samuel 16:5-13)
5. Pharisees criticizing Jesus

Examples of Criticism in the Bible

- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

“Part of the unwritten job requirements for every leader is the ability to handle criticism. That’s part of the leadership package. If you never get criticized, chances are you aren’t getting anything done. A wise leader will evaluate the opposition in light of the spirit and attitude in which criticism..



**Chuck Swindoll,
*Hand Me Another Brick***

“...is given. He will also consider the voice to which the opposition listens. If your critics listen to God’s voice, you had better listen to them.”



**Chuck Swindoll,
*Hand Me Another Brick***

1. What are the weak Jews doing?
2. Will they ever restore their wall?
3. Will they offer sacrifices again?
4. How long will it take?
5. Can they bring the rubble back to life?

Five Questions from Sanballat

- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.
- II. Trust God with the criticism.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

“How often in moments of severe criticism we fail to bow under God’s sovereignty—just when we need to do so the most! And it is precisely that failure that often brings us into restlessness, distress, and agony. No wonder Martin Luther, who was often criticized on every side, said letting God be God is more than half of all true religion.”



Joel Beeke,
Pastors and Their Critics

- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.
- II. Trust God with the criticism.
- III. Don't be surprised by criticism.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.
- II. Trust God with the criticism.
- III. Don't be surprised by criticism.
- IV. Don't return criticism with criticism.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

“Criticism will come; and when we don’t respond to it rightly, it will promote smugness, it promotes an unforgiving spirit, it promotes backbiting on our part. We tend to judge those who judge us. We tend to return evil for evil. We end up doing to others what others do to us. We binocularize their faults,...



Joel Beeke,
Pastors and Their Critics

“...bring them seven times closer and, when it comes to our own thoughts—because we become so self-defensive—we turn the binoculars around and we make our faults seven times smaller.”



Joel Beeke,
Pastors and Their Critics

*Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling,
but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were
called, that you may obtain a blessing.*

1 Peter 3:9

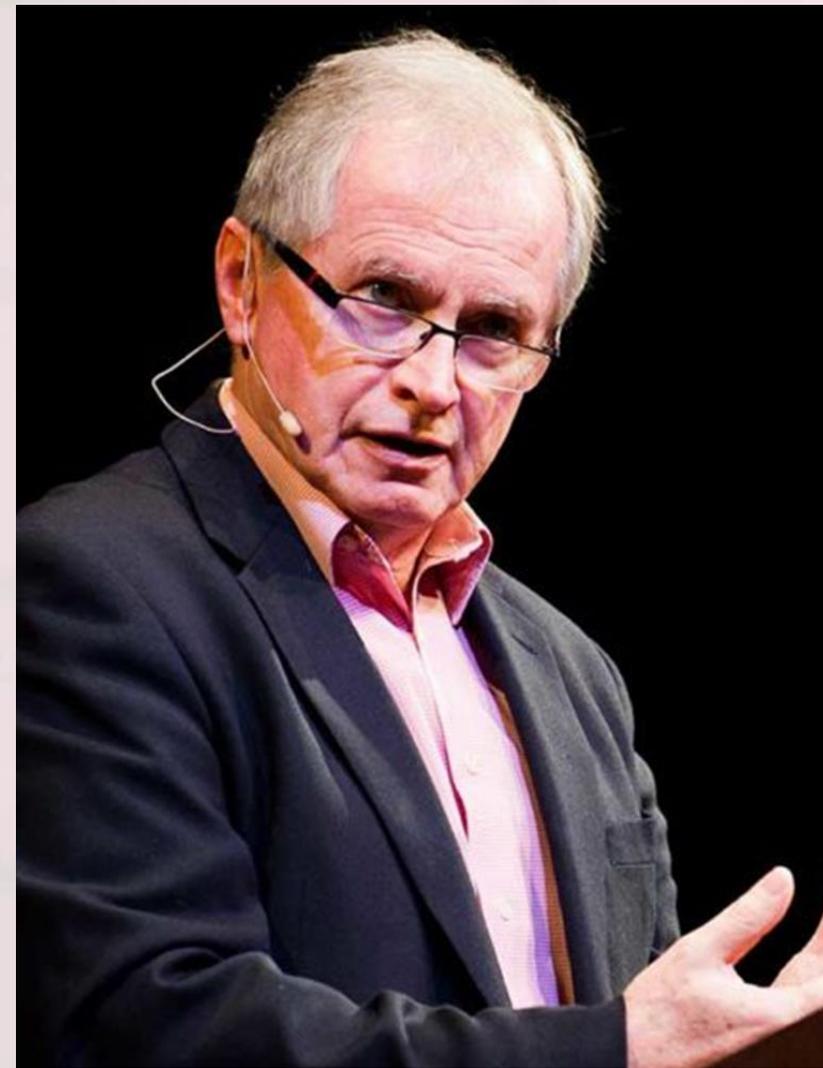
- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.
- II. Trust God with the criticism.
- III. Don't be surprised by criticism.
- IV. Don't return criticism with criticism.
- V. Pray about the criticism.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him.*

James 1:5

“All of us would be wiser if we would resolve never to put people down, except on our prayer lists.”



D.A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*

- I. Don't allow criticism to stop the work God has called you to do.
- II. Trust God with the criticism.
- III. Don't be surprised by criticism.
- IV. Don't return criticism with criticism.
- V. Pray about the criticism.
- VI. Handle the criticism with wisdom and humility.

Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah

“Brother, if any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him; for you are worse than he thinks you to be. If he charges you falsely on some point, yet be satisfied, for if he knew you better he might change the accusation, and you would be no gainer by the correction. If you have your moral portrait painted, and it is ugly,...



Charles Spurgeon

“...be satisfied; for it only needs a few blacker touches, and it would be still nearer the truth.”



Charles Spurgeon

*Let a righteous man strike me—
it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—
it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.
Yet my prayer is continually against their
evil deeds.*

Psalm 141:5

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Lessons About Criticism from Nehemiah