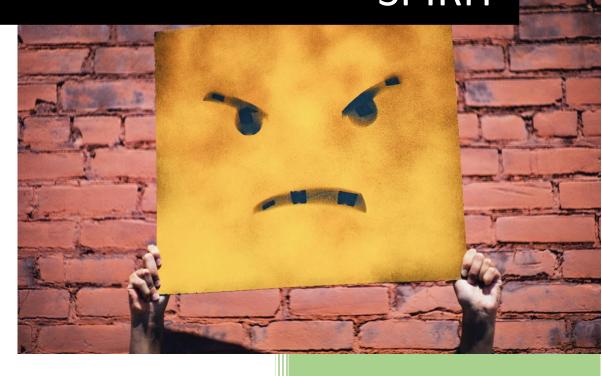
Walking Christian

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF CTITICAL SPIRIT



Barry Johnson Church of Christ, Brookfield Walking Christian Barry G. Johnson, Sr. / www.barrygjohnsonsr.com

Walking Christian on Critical Spirit / Care; Criticism; Critical Man

Looking at the Critical and Caring spirits of men.



II. CHARACTERISTICS





Job 8:4



Proverbs 20:9-10

A. What Are the Differences between a Critical Spirit and a Caring Spirit?



Job 9:22-24



Ephesians 5:2

9 Distinct Differences

A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Condemns the as well as the action	Condemns the, but not the person
Proverbs 12:18	
A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Focuses on the faults of	A CARING SPIRIT Focuses on your faults

A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
others	others
Proverbs 11:12	

A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Makes judgments based on	Makes judgments based on
John 7:24	
A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Assumes the without first hearing from the accused	Assumes the while waiting to hear from the accused
John 7:51	
A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Tears others without seeing their unmet needs	Builds others according to their inner needs
Ephesians 4:29	

A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
criticizes those who have wronged them—without first going to them	confronts those who have wronged them—by first going to them
Matthew 18:15	
A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
Reacts when given advice	Responds when given advice
Proverbs 13:10	

A CRITICAL SPIRIT	A CARING SPIRIT
mercy toward others	mercy toward others
James 2:12-13	

Honor Your Father and Mother

Question: "I want to be biblical but ... how can I honor my mother, who has a critical spirit

and is verbally abusiv	e toward me?"	
Answer:		
		.
You can honor your n	nother by	
• Living a	that reflects posit	ively on her.
Not assuming	when blar	med for situations in which you are blameless.
		healthy, which will mean setting
healthy boundaries fo	or your relationship.	



B. What "Smoke Screens" Camouflage a Critical Spirit?





The Smoke Screen

S—
harmful gossip with the justification that "everyone ought to know"
M—
others feel embarrassed about their success while secretly envying them
0—
to criticism from others to avoid personal accountability
K—
someone with the intent to hurt
E—
in "constructive criticism" when the criticism is in no way constructive
S—
blame to someone else when you yourself are to blame
C—
someone's happiness because you are unhappy
R—
others of their past failures to avoid attracting attention to your failures
E
sarcastic humor as a weapon to attack
E—
yourself by putting others down
N
nerfectionist tendencies to make yourself look hetter



Luke 6:42

A Wife's Faultfinding Friends

Question: "What can I say to friends who bad-mouth my husband? The things they say about him keep me focused on his faults."

Answer:
E that you have determined to switch your focus from your husband's faults to his needs and to pray that your husband would let the Lord meet his deepest inner needs.
E their help—ask them to help you dwell on his positive traits. If your friends continue to be negative, they are not real friends, and you may need to limit your time with them.
E your concern with a pleasant voice: "I realize what you are saying is true but I cannot change him; only God can do that."
E your course of action: "I am choosing to thank God that (). Help me focus on his positive traits and pray that he will allow God to correct his faults, which is what God's Word tells me to do."
1 Peter 4:8

C. What Are Camouflaged Characteristics of a Critical Spirit?







C—
personal hurts and hopes out of distrust and fear of being abandoned
4—
no one to get close enough to know the "real" person because of a fear of being rejected and scorned
M—
others into feeling guilty when they are not in an effort to conceal their own guilt
0
revenge for personal offenses in order to even the score and feel a sense of power, control, and self-respect
J—
out-downs and slander to hurt others in an attempt to feel superior and significant
=
they are better than others to increase self-esteem and diminish feelings of inferiority
<u>. </u>
to be "one up" on others to establish a position of control and to compensate for feeling vulnerable, like a victim
A—
they are always right because being wrong is totally demeaning and demoralizing
G—
ittle or no thought to the needs of others as a result of expending too much mental and emotional energy on meeting personal needs
E—
ew pleasures in life because the pressing need to be hypervigilant robs them of life's enjoyments

