

# Walking Christian

## II. CHARACTERISTICS OF CTITICAL SPIRIT



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Walking Christian

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

Looking at the Critical and Caring spirits of men.

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## II. CHARACTERISTICS



Job 8:2



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 _____	Focuses on your ____ faults
 Luke 6:41	

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 abusive toward me?”**

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

**You can honor your mother by ...**

- **Living a** \_\_\_\_\_ **that reflects positively on her.**
- **Not assuming** \_\_\_\_\_ **when blamed for situations in which you are blameless.**
- **Becoming** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ **healthy,** which will mean setting healthy boundaries for your relationship.



Exodus 20:12

### **B. What “Smoke Screens” Camouflage a Critical Spirit?**



Job 10:2, 5-7



James 3:14

## 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

**O**— \_\_\_\_\_

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**— \_\_\_\_\_

perfectionist tendencies to make yourself look better





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?**



Job 11:2-3



Job 11:12



Psalms 32:2

**C—** \_\_\_\_\_

personal hurts and hopes ... out of distrust and fear of being abandoned

**A—** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**O—** \_\_\_\_\_

revenge for personal offenses ... in order to even the score and feel a sense of power, control, and self-respect

**U—** \_\_\_\_\_

put-downs and slander to hurt others ... in an attempt to feel superior and significant

**F—** \_\_\_\_\_

they are better than others ... to increase self-esteem and diminish feelings of inferiority

**L—** \_\_\_\_\_

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—** \_\_\_\_\_

little or no thought to the needs of others ... as a result of expending too much mental and emotional energy on meeting personal needs

**E—** \_\_\_\_\_

few pleasures in life ... because the pressing need to be hypervigilant robs them of life’s enjoyments



Psalm 69:5