

A CRITICAL ATTITUDE

It's All in Your Mind...Attitude is Everything (Part 5)

*^{4f} Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);”
Numbers 12:1 (NASB)*

Criticism – To dwell upon the perceived faults of another with no view to their good.

^{4e} and they said, ‘Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?’ And the Lord heard it. ³ (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.) ⁴ Suddenly the Lord said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, ‘You three come out to the tent of meeting.’ So the three of them came out. ⁵ Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, ⁶ He said, ‘Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?’ ⁹ So the anger of the Lord burned against them and He departed. ¹⁰ But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous. ¹¹ Then Aaron said to Moses, ‘Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned. ¹² Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother’s womb!’ ¹³ Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, ‘O God, heal her, I pray!’ ¹⁴ But the Lord said to Moses, ‘If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again.’ ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.” Numbers 12:2-15 (NASB)

I. CRITICISM IS WRONG.

⁴¹ Then Aaron said to Moses, ‘Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned.” Numbers 12:11 (NASB)

A. It’s wrong for our fellowship with God.

*^{4b} If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9 (ESV)*

B. It’s wrong for us personally.

C. It’s wrong for our relationship with others.

II. CRITICISM IS PETTY.

Behind the Petty Issues are Heart Issues:

- A. Unforgiveness and bitterness
- B. Envy, jealousy, resentment
- C. Personal failure

III. CRITICISM IS SELF-EXALTING.

Oswald Chambers – “Beware of anything that puts you in the place of the superior person.”

IV. CRITICISM IS PAINFUL.

V. CRITICISM IS OFTEN INADVERTENT.

VI. CRITICISM PLUGS THE FLOW OF GOD’S BLESSING.

Oswald Chambers – “Whenever you are in a critical temper, it is impossible to enter into communion with God.”

QUESTIONS FOR THE DAY:

- 1. Am I a critical person?
- 2. Am I reaping the consequences in my relationship with God?
- 3. Am I willing to repent?