



A Pastor for Every Person!
ROCK GROUPS
(Evangelistic Care Groups)
ROCK GROUP DIRECTIVE

**How to Handle
Critical People
with Love**

ICE BREAKER... Do you feel like you handle criticism well?

It is better to be **criticized** by a wise person than
to be **praised** by a fool! Ecclesiastes 7:5 NLT

DISCUSSION: Is there truly such a thing as **constructive criticism**?
If so, how is it different than **destructive** criticism?

Jesus talked about one of the sinful types of criticism in **Matthew 7:4**

“How can you think of saying, ‘Let me help you get rid of that **speck** in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the **log** in your own eye?” NLT

Both praise and criticism are windows into the hearts of people. People often praise what they **value** most. Whereas, criticism often reveals a person’s deepest **insecurities** and sometimes their own **hypocrisy** as Jesus taught in this verse.

The two most common **wrong** responses to criticism are **FIGHT** and **FLIGHT**.

FIGHT - It’s very tempting to lower ourselves and start slinging mud back at those who criticize us. But, the bible teaches us to do unto to others as we would have done unto us... **NOT** as they do unto us. Responding to criticism with criticism only makes things worse. Avoid the urge to **FIGHT**.

FLIGHT - It’s also tempting to fall prey to the knee-jerk reaction of ‘blacklisting’ those who criticize us. It may seem easiest to simply avoid the person and encourage those around us to do the same. Scripture does teach us that sometimes avoiding people is the right response. However, we can also fall into the trap of avoiding people out of fleshly responses of animosity, retribution and even hatred.

Instead of responding through '**fight**' or '**flight**', we should learn to respond to criticism in one of ***three scriptural ways***.

1 LISTEN

- When their motive is to ***help*** not hurt.
- When the person ***can*** help.

"If you ***listen*** to ***constructive criticism***, you will be ***at home among the wise***. If you ***reject*** criticism, you only harm yourself..."

Proverbs 15:31-32 NLT

2 ANSWER

- When the person is missing ***information*** that would change his perception.
- When the person is ***open*** to change.

"The Ephraimites asked Gideon, 'Why have you treated us like this?...' and they ***criticized him sharply***. But he ***answered them...***"

Judges 8:1-2a

3 DISMISS

- When the person is characterized by being ***overly*** critical.
- When the person is ***emotionally unhealthy*** or ***wounded***.

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.'

Matthew 15:13-14 NLT

We can't always please people, but we can please God!

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***.

I Thessalonians 2:4 NLT

Let's ***pray in groups of three or four*** that we would handle criticism well.

- ✓ Did you share the vision and mission of COTR and the Rock Groups?
- ✓ Prayer, Ministry time, and Fellowship
- ✓ Prayer for COTR Leadership
- ✓ "Empty Chair" Prayer - encourage group to ***invite someone new next time***
- ✓ Did everyone complete the sign-in form?

📞 Remember to complete the ***online report*** and ***attendance*** for the meeting soon