

# Walking Christian

## Defining Critical Spirit



Barry G. Johnson, Sr.  
Church of Christ, Brookfield, IL  
Walking Christian

Barry G. Johnson, Sr. / [www.barryjohnsonsr.com](http://www.barryjohnsonsr.com)

Walking Christian on Critical Spirit / Strife; Criticism

Defining a Critical Spirit and learning God's heart about it.

## I. DEFINITIONS

- Do you criticize and pass judgment on others?
- Do you find yourself with a negative disposition, always finding fault with something or someone?
- Is it difficult for you to see the positive in a person or a situation because the negative is so glaring in your eye?
- Are you compelled to give your critical point of view for the good of all mankind?
- A critical spirit is a negative attitude of the heart that seeks to condemn, tear down, and destroy with words.
  - In contrast, constructive criticism involves opinions that are meant to build up.
  - A critical spirit creates blind spots in a person's heart and mind causing them to believe they are being constructive.
  - It is characterized as the ungodly.



## A. What Is a Critical Spirit?

James 1:12

Romans 14:10

- A **critical spirit** is an excessively negative \_\_\_\_\_ characterized by harshness in judging.

Acts 11:2

- “**Criticism**” comes from the Greek word *kritikos*, which means “able to discern or skilled in judging.”

— Speaking fairly with \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to merit or value

— Speaking unfairly with \_\_\_\_\_ or harsh judgments

Proverbs 18:21

## B. What Is a Caring Spirit?

Proverbs 8:13

Ephesians 3:17–19

- **Caring** means someone giving watchful or painstaking attention based on \_\_\_\_\_ what is best for others.

Hebrews 2:6–7

- **Caring** people are genuinely interested in showing concern for others.

Luke 10:34

1 Thessalonians 2:7

Philippians 2:25, 30

## C. What Is Encouragement?

Job 6:15

Job 6:21

Hebrews 3:13

- **Encouragement** means one person \_\_\_\_\_ another person with comfort, counsel, and confidence.

Joshua 1:7–8

1 Thessalonians 5:11

- “**Encouragement**,” translated from the Greek word *paraklesis*, literally means “a calling to one’s aid” to give comfort or \_\_\_\_\_.

John 14:16 HCSB

John 14:26–27 KJV

*James 4:12*

## D. What Is God’s Heart on a Critical Spirit?

Proverbs 22:11

Matthew 7:1–5

- **Don’t** be \_\_\_\_\_ or you too will be judged.
- **Don’t** judge others or you will be judged in the same way and \_\_\_\_\_ by the same standard.
- **Don’t** focus on the small faults of others, before \_\_\_\_\_ on your own big faults.
- **Don’t** talk to others about their faults while you \_\_\_\_\_ your own faults.
- **Don’t** be \_\_\_\_\_—correct your faults! Then you can correct someone else’s faults!

Luke 6:37