



RESOLVING CONFLICT



Practical Solutions to Real Peace & Harmony

The Right Attitude

Proverbs 9:9; 12:15; 13:10; 15:32; 17:10

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Wise people recognize the gain in criticism.

Review:

Week 1 – The Right Priority

Don't gunnysack a relationship by keeping a list of wrongs. Reconcile quickly. Overlook or Reconcile.

Week 2 – The Right Focus

Success in conflict is not getting the right result but reflecting the right person. Reflect God.

Week 3 – The Right Heart

The first step in any conflict is to thoroughly examine your heart.

Week 4 – The Right Approach

Confession brings freedom. Proverbs 28:13, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Week 5 – The Right Response

Only forgiven people can really forgive.

Week 6 – The Right Judgment

Instead of judging others critically, God wants you to judge charitably / lovingly.

Today – The Right Attitude

Today, I want to speak with you about criticism and your attitude toward it.

Me (Orientation - Information): What one thing do they need to know?

According to the *New York Times*, the ultimate cause of the space shuttle disaster was *pride*.

Pride can be exceedingly costly. Critical words can cut to the core.

Do you know how to take criticism?

You can **react** with a spirit of defensiveness and pride heightening the conflict.

Or, you can **respond** with wisdom, graciousness, and humility and reduce the level of hostility.

Criticism is when another person **judges** you by declaring you have fallen short of a particular standard.

The Biblical Response to Criticism

Solomon, the main writer of Proverbs, teaches how important it is to hear correction and take criticism. According to the following verses, being teachable and willing to receive correction is a mark of a wise, mature person.

Proverbs 12:15, “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”

Proverbs 13:10, “Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.”

Proverbs 17:10, “A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.”

Proverbs 13:13, “He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.”

Proverbs 9:9, “Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.”

Proverbs 15:32, “He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.”

Wise people recognize there is great gain in taking criticism.

Psalm 141:5, “Let a righteous man strike me – it is a kindness; let him rebuke me – it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.”

Even when criticism is largely inaccurate or given with unkind words/motives, it can still be a blessing and help you grow if you have the humility to listen to what is true.

Is this how you look at a rebuke?

Is this how you hear criticism, correction, or counsel?

Application:

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Proverbs 9:9**
- I will work on rejecting my natural reaction to criticism.**
- I will work on listening with a humble attitude.**
- I will work on responding with thanksgiving.**
- I will get alone and consider correction carefully.**
- I will work on applying the lessons learned.**