

## **CRITICISM**

**Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.**

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Our preacher is too young, too immature, too trite. I get nothing from his services and now he is my Sunday School teacher too!

Found in a book in the Central Church of Christ auditorium,  
Dalton, Ga. Nov. 1977

*Bul. ART. 11-4-94*

## CRITICIZE

I hate everything and everybody. When I hear someone laugh I want to hit them. Why should they have something to laugh about when I don't!

Found in a book in the Central Church of Christ, Dalton,  
Ga. (auditorium) Nov. 1977

Dec. 9, 1999

Jerrie,

Q will be perfectly  
honest with you. I am not nor  
will I ever be interested in  
becoming a leader at this church.  
I am not interested in your  
class. I once was a deacon  
at this church but have no  
good memories ... only bad ones  
... people never satisfied .. always  
complaining .. I've experienced  
much the same in my personal  
life ... That's why I'd rather  
dig the ditch and let someone  
else get the praise. Thanks  
for your understanding.

## **CRITICISM**

I was once complaining to my friend Steve Chapman about someone who had been critical of me. He said, "Well, at least you got that 'Woe' off your back." I asked him to explain. He said, "Jesus said, 'Woe unto you when all men speak well of you.' Now that's one 'Woe' you don't have to worry about!"

For years I wondered what it was that differentiated the more motivated. Then one day I realized that it was something more essential to self, something Bowen had already taught more by the example of his life than through any specific lesson. I had been discussing with a client who had worked through some very difficult problems what distinguished those who succeed in changing their life course. Since he was a former boxer, I used an analogy from his sport, and said that I thought it was the capacity to “take a punch.” To my surprise and enlightenment, he responded, “You’ve got it wrong. It’s not the capacity to take a punch, it’s loving it.” ~~This is also what Bowen has taught:~~ loving the struggle, being challenged by life to hang in there and find new ways to think about and approach its problems.

*Bowen Theory and Therapy*, Edwin H. Friedman, D.D.

# CRITICISM

21, 7-11-64

One of the things that often holds us back in our success is the deliberate attempt we make to hide from the facts when the facts are unpleasant. Advice is seldom valued, though there is a great deal of advising and very little listening. usually we do not want advice; we want flattery. And yet one cannot easily be our flatterer and our friend at the same time. Some people actually owe more to better enemies than to pleasant friends. The former sometimes speak the truth; the latter seldom do. An enemy is often a friend in disguise who stings us into action. He tells us the truth about ourselves. Cato asserted that wise men profit more from fools than fools do from wise men, ~~for~~ some wise men try to avoid the faults of fools, but fools seldom try to imitate the good examples of wise men.

- How to Personally Profit From the Laws of Success

Sterling W. Sill - page 202

- ANONYMOUS

LETTER

1. J.B. - BOORING PK.  
2. ELDERS, FAMILY

TIPOBÉ X W - TO BE IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF READINESS TO LEARN OF ANY FUTURE DANGER, NEED, OR ERROR, AND TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY - 'TO PAY ATTENTION TO, TO KEEP ON THE LOOKOUT FOR, TO BE ALERT FOR, TO BE ON ONE'S GUARD AGAINST'

NL, 4-15-97

BUL. ART., 114-95

## CRITICISM

Get a friend to tell you your faults, or better still, welcome an enemy who will watch you keenly and sting you savagely. What a blessing such an irritating critic will be to a wise man, what an intolerable nuisance to a fool!

-Charles Spurgeon

*LEADERSHIP*

*Spring Quarter 198:*

*Page 101*

## CRITICISM

Bill Gates, in his book *Business @ the Speed of Thought*, writes:

"A good e-mail system ensures that bad news can travel fast, but your people have to be willing to send you the news. You have to be constantly receptive to bad news, and then you have to act on it. Sometimes I think my most important job as CEO is to listen for bad news. If you don't act on it, your people will eventually stop bringing bad news to your attention. And that's the beginning of the end.

"The willingness to hear hard truth is vital not only for CEO's of big corporations but also for anyone who loves the truth. Sometimes the truth sounds like bad news, but it is just what we need."

-Bill Gates, *Business @ the Speed of Thought* (Warner, 1999)

LEADERSHIP

SUMMER, 2000

Page 67

BUL. ART., 10-25-00



It is no good passing this over with some vague, general admission such as “Of course, I know I have my faults.” It is important to realize that there is some really fatal flaw in you: something which gives the others just that same feeling of despair which their flaws give you. And it is almost certainly something you don’t know about – like what the advertisements call “halitosis” which everyone notices except the person who has it.

But why, you ask, don’t the others tell me? Believe me, they have tried to tell you over and over again, and you just couldn’t “take it.” Perhaps a good deal of what you call their “nagging” or “bad temper” or “queerness” are just their attempts to make you see the truth. And even the faults you do know you don’t know fully. – C. S. Lewis, “How to Get Along with Difficult People,” *Eternity* 16 (August, 1965): 14.

Biblical Eldership, Alexander Strauch, page 40

## CRITICISM

Russell Lynes:

The only graceful way to accept an insult is to ignore it; if you can't ignore it, top it; if you can't top it, laugh at it; if you can't laugh at it, it's probably deserved.

Reader's Digest  
March, 1983  
Page 33

*Buc. Art, 11-4-98*

4-27-96

To the Good Brethren of Berry's Chapel:

For to long I have sat and observed the destruction of this congregation because of personal opinions and desires being placed over the will of God. This church has split several times in its history whether we want to admit it or not and in all those cases it was because of personal desires of a few.

Well, events over the recent period of time have made me realize that it is time to implement "an eye for an eye". The comments to follow will be embarrassing to some but the facts are true and cannot be disputed. It is time for the hipocracy to stop and this appears to be the most appropriate method. This letter will be sent to the four elders, the minister and five families selected from the most recent directory. It will be mailed to all those listed in the most recent directory if immediate changes are not made.

You have judged, now you must be judged!

Jerry Barber has done more to destroy this church than most other people. I believe the membership has dropped from the 450 Glen Randolph helped us grow to to about 300 at present ( and still shrinking). From the pulpit Jerry is boring and does not present us with any spiritual growth or challenges. He is unfriendly and uncaring (as you proved by firing the church secretary and replacing her with ~~██████████~~). Jerry, have you observed your audience? Most are asleep and those awake are not listening. You are to rehearsed and you are not genuine. Very few people that know you respect you but as you know this is consistent with the other places you have preached. Why do so many people celebrate when you are finally asked to leave? According to the elders at other congregations you have <sup>DO NOT</sup> the same thing to Berry's Chapel as you have to other congregations. More specifics will be included in the next letter.

# CLASSIFIED

Advertising in this section is \$2.00 per line per month. This section is designed especially to accommodate preachers seeking work or congregations seeking preachers. Other church-related matter is accepted in keeping with the publisher's standards. **Just be canceled by the first of the month to avoid being charged for the following month.**

## Preachers Wanted

Moline Church of Christ, 4000 48th St., Moline, IL 61265. Congregation membership (90+), no elders, needs full-time pulpit minister. Mature age, good leadership qualities, personal work experience in church and community, active with young people. Please contact search committee: Paul Trammel (309) 762-7097 or Dave Kitchner (309) 787-2478.

Preacher experienced in personal evangelism to work on an interim basis with a 350-member congregation. Plans are for eventual assignment with full support, to a mission point in southern Missouri. Send résumé, tape, and picture to Elders, Highland Church of Christ, 1601 Highland Dr., Poplar Bluff, MO 63901. Phone (314) 783-2679.

Preacher wanted: Established congregation in Central Valley of Calif. is seeking a minister. Must be grounded in the faith and sound doctrine of Christ. If interested, please contact: Larry Nixon (805) 327-2054, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or (805) 399-5995 after 5 p.m.

Wanted: Full-time preacher for a small conservative congregation of 40 members. Salary and house provided. Send résumé, references, tape, and picture to Church of Christ, 4500 Airway Rd., Dayton, OH 45431

Parker, Colorado. We are looking for a full-time preacher to help us evangelize a rapidly growing community that is located just outside of Metro-Denver. We are a congregation of 40, and are self supporting. Applicants must be conservative and have a proven soul-winning résumé. Contact Jim Taylor (303) 799-4664; Allan Banta (303) 841-7594, or Chuck Boerner (303) 755-5925 for further information.

The Keller Church of Christ in Texas is searching for a new pulpit minister. We are a congregation of 350 on the outskirts of the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex in a very fast-growing area. If interested, please send your résumé and an audio/video tape to Keller Church of Christ, P.O. Box 179, Keller, TX 76248.

Small Central Valley California church needs a retired or semi-retired minister. House, utilities and partial support. Send résumé to Hardy Reeves, 1553 Corgiat Dr., Newman, CA 95360, (209) 862-2554

Preacher with partial support needed at Saline Church of Christ, Saline, MI. Must be doctrinally sound with no liberal leanings. Preacher's home utilities, and partial support provided. Send résumé (Attn. Jeff) to Saline Church of Christ, 7300 E. Michigan Ave., Saline MI 48176 or call (313) 439-2720.

Small congregation looking for a conservative preacher, grounded in the truth. Would need partial support. 2-BR house with basement provided. Send résumé and/or tape to Westside Church of Christ, 1623 N. 7th St., Arkansas City, KS 67003.

Evangelist wanted: Small congregation of both hearing and deaf members needs sound gospel preacher who respects authority of the Bible. Must be fluent in ASL. Call Jerry Head (512) 263-5560 or (512) 448-6923 (messages only) or send résumé to Church of Christ for the Deaf, 1500 Newton, Austin, TX 78704.

We need experienced personal worker/minister and motivator for congregation of 28 (98 summer) in Anglo/Hispanic mission area. Prefer husband and wife teaching team. Salary \$20-24,000 and sick leave, meeting time, vacation and bonus. (Housing isn't furnished.) Beautiful country, less than 5,000 people in area. Call (719) 657-2470 or mail sermon tape, résumé, and family picture to Church of Christ, Box J, Del Norte, CO 81132. May need outside support or income.

## Preachers Available

Gospel preacher of 22 years. Can't attend a full-time school of preaching.

Force, 1970. III, Tom Lucas, (8 Highview Terrar area). Reference

Preacher available time preaching in and Okla. Chi Max Reed, 20 or call (913):

Preacher available TX 76651. (2

Preacher, 37, or S. OK with mission field of members. M.A. or other info, Eunice LA 705

Deaver-Yoder 1 indwelling of the and Gil Yoder, Mac Deaver, P.O. plus \$1.50 S/F. Victor Ave., V. 55 7515.

Power Lectureship \$15.00, plus \$7.00 Prophets - \$12.00 Order from PCW P.O. Box 128, Multiple orders, see

Shenandoah Le. Happened to Hear Handbook on Bible Postpaid! Sheppard Wurzbach Rd., S; (210) 696-5531.

Scripture-based altar insurance: CSN - C provides up to \$50.0 exam. Christians 1 Highower, 11026 W, 78230.

Oak pews, 12-15 ft. in except 4. In good co County Church of Chr Springfield, TN 3717.

Restoration Reprints, For free list send S.A.S 159 Gibson Dr., Hfend buy religious books an

Special offer: \$6.00, in Compared - a complet in chronological orde Graham Stanfill, 136 3808, (713) 955-00

Basic Bible: Chris' B. Lyle, Ph.D., 29 of Scripture r organized unv subject area important extremel must for

Much of the criticism directed at spiritual leaders is henpecking, pure and simple. It can never be made to go away permanently by trying harder to please. Despite the time-bomb quality of the emotionality, it is usually rather harmless in itself and will tend to self-destruct if there is no defensive feedback to keep it ticking (*Generation to Generation*, by Edwin Friedman, page 207).

~~LIGHTNING ROD - NOT A TROW RUG~~

BOL. ART, 10-25-00

BC, 1-24-97

## CRITICISM

**About Responding:** As we get older we learn slowly that we don't need to respond to every attack made on us. I remember well a Speech class session with Dr. Carrol Ellis of David Lipscomb University when I was a student there. He said, "If some guy walks back and forth carrying a sign that says, 'Carrol Ellis is a nut', a few people probably will believe him. But then if I start carrying a sign that says, 'Carrol Ellis is **not** a nut', a whole lot of people will believe him then."

- The Oak Leaf Bulletin  
Goodman Oaks Church  
Southaven, MS, 4-13-92

By far the most difficult form of pursuit behavior to recognize is criticism. How can those who act adversarially be said to be in pursuit? We feel alienated, not close. But criticism is characterized by overfocus. The “stinger” and the “stung” are *emotionally* connected. Whenever a gnawing critic gets inside our brain cells and we can't expunge him, we are connected, even if negatively. Whenever someone gets under our skin, we are infected with anxiety. If we are reactive to a pursuer, the pursuit behavior achieves its goal: connection. Strange as it sounds, the critic wants to be close. After all, if we can't be close through play, ecstasy, touch, and nurture, our only option to accomplish closeness is through angry outbursts, specious charges, or harsh accusations. People feel close to us when they know we are thinking about them. *What* we think is not as important as *that* we are thinking about them. We play into the hands of criticizers when we react to their invasion rather than define ourselves to it.<sup>9</sup> PETER, STONKES, *How Your Church Family Works*, p. 89. \_\_\_\_\_

Differentiation: “Choosing different distances with different people at

## CRITICISM

Therefore, the leader must expect criticism much as an Olympian would expect and plan for pain. I listened to Bob Richards, the Olympic gold medalist, interview younger Olympic winners of the gold. He asked them, "What did you do when you began to hurt?"

None of these Olympians was surprised by the question; all had a specific way of handling the pain -- some even prayed.

After the interviews, I asked Bob why he had asked about handling pain, and he said matter-of-factly, "You never win the gold without hurting."

- Fred Smith "The Care and Feeding of Critics"  
*Leadership* Winter 1995, page 29  
Volume XVI Number 1

NL, 3-11-97  
BOL. ART., 10-25-00



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BC, 12-13-98

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**"Criticism may be slightly more tolerable than a root canal, but that doesn't mean we should avoid it. In fact, we should invite it – criticism is the breakfast of champions."**

**-"Managing Your Ministry"  
-Michael Woodruff, management consultant  
-Youthworker Journal, May/June 1996**

## **CRITICISM**

Charles Reynolds Brown commented,

The man who does not know, and does not know that he does not know and is not willing that anyone should tell him that he does not know, had better not enter the ministry – he had better raise sweet potatoes.

Harold Hazelip  
Gospel Advocate  
August 21, 1986