

Condemnation / Fault-finding / Judgmentalism

Webster's - To censure (a judgment), blame (to find fault with)
To come under a judgment

2607 *kataginosko* – to know something against; to think ill of; to condemn.

- Used in 1 John 3:20, 21 to refer to conviction of heart that came as a result of an enlightened conscience.

2613 *katadikazo* – [*kata* – down or against / *dike* – justice] to exercise right or law against someone; to pronounce judgment

- Matthew 12:7; Luke 6:37; James 5:6

2917 *krima* – denotes the sentence pronounced / a verdict / a condemnation / the decision resulting from an investigation.

- * Mark 12:40; Luke 23:40; Jude 4; 1 Timothy 3:6
- * 2613 *katakrima* – a sentence pronounced with a punishment following

2920 *krisis* – the process of investigation; the act of distinguishing and separating

The trap of judgmentalism and fault-finding in another member of Christ's body:

1. We are all loved and accepted by God.

- * We are called to add, not take away. (1 Corinthians 12:14-25)
- * Every member is necessary and valued.

2. We are all in the process of transformation. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

- * We are shifting our eyes off of the perfection of Jesus and on to the imperfection of each other. (mature manhood, Eph. 4:13)

3. Should we expect something from someone else that we ourselves are unwilling to do?

- * If we think we are spiritual enough to see everything that is wrong, why can't we be spiritual enough to act in the spirit of Christ when no one else is?
- * Why do we "dumb-down" instead of become godly examples?

4. We are tearing down the very thing that God has designed to help mature us.

- * We are working against God and our own development. (Eph. 4:12)
- * We have a mal-adjusted view of the Body. (think it is about us).
- * We function through relationship (life flows).

Self-condemnation

- Titus 3:11 – Doing yourself what you condemn in others
- Agreement with lies that the enemy is telling us.

Condemnation of the devil

- 1 Timothy 3:6 – Condemnation incurred by the devil as a result of pride. (New converts are especially susceptible) (They judge from self-righteousness rather than seasoned discernment)
- Accusation, criticism, judgment, and fault-finding are works of the flesh!
 - Jude 16 – *“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts...”*

Accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10,11)

- (2723 *katagoreo*) – a plaintiff; to charge with some offence
- We overcome by the blood of the Lamb (forgiveness through Christ) and the word of our testimony (confession of agreement).
- The purpose of accusation is to entice the body of Christ away from the perfection of Jesus and onto the imperfections of one another.
 - It is a “seducing” spirit.
- The accuser manifests as a “faultfinder” and is directed towards the destruction of relationships. (It masquerades as discernment and develops into a critical spirit.)
 - Will result in withdrawal and aloofness
 - Unwilling to serve
 - Manifested through the Pharisees
- Antithetical to the prophetic intercessor.
 - The fruit of this spirit is discouragement and suspicion.
 - Rather than restore and heal, it divides and destroys.

Things that empower the fault-finding spirit:

Un-repentd sin

- Leads to deception and demonic manipulation.

Negativeness - A bad attitude and a negative view of life. A person may have unconfessed sin in their life (Rom. 2:1), or may harbor unforgiveness or bitterness toward someone who may have offended them (Heb. 12:15).

Self-righteousness

- Working along with a “religious spirit” (Pharisee)

Bondage to the past

- Failure to reconcile past mistakes and past poor decisions.
- Fault-finding begins with our agreement with the enemy’s criticism of us first.
- What is their relationship with past spiritual authorities and churches? (Have they reconciled relationship with those from where they came?)

Lack of intercession for others

- Are we praying for one another or preying on one another?
- Insecurity does not allow us to serve each other.

Jealousy

- We sabotage the success and forward movement of others (because we are not experiencing any for ourselves.)
- Our deceived perception is that we raise ourselves up by tearing down someone else.

Fear

- We are not yet settled in the love of God for ourselves, so we cannot extend it to others.
- We have fallen away from our “first love.” (Jesus)

Insecurity - Criticism is often a subconscious means to “elevate one’s own self image.” By putting others down, they are inwardly trying to feel more important or that “they know more.”

Immaturity → Lack of significance in God

Immaturity - Believers must always keep their focus upon Christ and His Word, not man, who will often fail (Heb. 12:2). The young or immature believer who has not progressed very far in their own faith, remain overly dependent upon the faith of those within the body of Christ. Unfortunately, when they begin to notice the flaws in their brethren, subconsciously, this becomes a threat to their own sense of victory. Criticism becomes a reaction of disappointment, because their expectations in others have been crushed.

An Unrenewed Mind - Put-downs, making-fun-of, criticism, sarcasm are the world's ways of reacting to the faults of people. However, as Christians we don't behave this way. Our thinking and attitude should be renewed by the Word of God, which teaches us to bear the infirmities of the weak, to love, and show compassion and encouragement (Rom. 12:2).

What Exactly is a Critical Spirit?

A "critical spirit," is an obsessive attitude of criticism and fault-finding, which seeks to tear others down — not the same thing as what is sometimes called "constructive criticism." The only criticism that is ever constructive is that which is expressed in love to "build up," not to tear down — it is always expressed face-to-face, never behind their back.

The person with a critical spirit usually dwells on the negative, seeks for flaws rather than good. They're a complainer, usually always upset, and generally have a problem or a complaint about something. They often have little control over their tongue, their temper, and have tendencies for gossip and slander, which Paul said were sins "worthy of death" (Rom. 1:29-32).

The Devil - As we may realize, the Devil specializes in influencing obsessive behavior. He may use any or all of the above channels, or other techniques, to influence a complaining or critical attitude to stir up turmoil and strife within the body of Christ (Eph. 6:12). We must be on guard that none of us would be used as a tool of the Devil to bring harassment or discouragement upon our brothers or sisters through continual criticism, as the Bible warns us not to "give place" to the Devil (Eph. 4:27). Remember that Satan is specifically called "the accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:10). Are you an accuser of the brethren?

The Bible says that the reason that we are to come together as a church is, not to criticize, but to "exhort" (encourage) one another (Hebrews 10:25). "Cursing the darkness" won't change anything, but we must light a candle and "expose the light" of God's Word. By sharing the truth of God's Word, and encouraging people to live in its truth, people will change. Love and encouragement is a "motivational force."

If we ever hope to bring improvement in others, we need to become people of encouragement. This is the only attitude that will change people, and our actions and words must be devoted to encouraging the spiritual progress of our brethren.

The Christian's tongue should never be used for anything but good. "Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word, nor unwholesome or worthless talk (ever) come out of your mouth; but only such speech as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it" (Eph. 4:29 The Amplified Bible).