



## Criticizing

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

<sup>14</sup> For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. **Galatians 5:14-15 NLT**

Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. **Proverbs 12:18 NLT**

Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. **Ephesians 4:29 NLT**

It’s better to live alone in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining wife. **Proverbs 21:19 NLT**

### 1. Which do you want to be?

- **Fault finder**
- **Hope dealer**

<sup>3</sup> “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?” <sup>4</sup> How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? **Matthew 7:3-4 NLT**

### 2. Why hope matters

- It shapes how we think
- It helps us to trust God
- It works against criticism

<sup>25</sup> ‘I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. <sup>26</sup> No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. **Acts 2:25-26 NLT**

The tongue can bring death or life... **Proverbs 18:21 NLT**

### Next Steps:

- ☐ Re-read today’s Bible verses this week
- ☐ Commit to focus on uplifting words of hope when I’m tempted to criticize others
- ☐ Spend time in prayer this week asking God to show me where I am critical of others
- ☐ Say words of hope and encouragement to someone before I leave the building today
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_