



Critical People

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²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.' ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Matthew 22:29-31 NLT

1. How to respond to critical people

- Sometimes, you don't respond
- Sometimes, you respond carefully
- Sometimes, you listen and make a change

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. **1 Peter 2:23 NLT**

Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs. **Proverbs 19:11 NLT**

¹ Then the people of Ephraim asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us this way? Why didn't you send for us when you first went out to fight the Midianites?" And they argued heatedly with Gideon. ² But Gideon replied...

³ When the men of Ephraim heard Gideon's answer, their anger subsided. **Judges 8:1-3 NLT**

³¹ If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. ³² If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding. **Proverbs 15:31-32 NLT**

2. What if you are the vampire?

- Know who you are in Christ
- Don't let compliments go to your head and don't let criticism go to your heart
- Guard your heart

¹⁰ So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God... ¹² Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. ¹³ So let's stop condemning each other. **Romans 14: 10, 12-13 NLT**

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **Proverbs 4:23 NLT**

Next Steps:

- ☐ Commit to love the Relational Vampires in my life
- ☐ Love the critical person/people in my life by ____
- ☐ Commit to not react emotionally in the moment to criticism from others
- ☐ Attend the rest of "Relational Vampires" series
- ☐ _____