

STUDY NOTES – JUNE 17, 2018

Sermon Series: “*Philippians: Unquenchable Joy*”

Pastor Kris preaches from the *English Standard Version (ESV)*.
Sermons on line at camanochapel.org. (Click the Media tab.)

Scripture: **Philippians 1**

How to handle with criticism:

1. Evaluate yourself. (Vs. 12-14)

Philippians 1:12–14 (ESV) — 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Life lesson: Look for evidence of the validity of the criticism.

How to discern the validity of criticism:

1. Is there a grain of truth (even if the criticism was delivered wrongly)?
2. Did the criticizer cite specific examples of your wrong words or behavior?
3. Was the criticism based on scriptural principles?
4. Was the criticism based on wrong assumptions of your motives?
5. Have others also shared similar concerns to you?
6. Was the criticism based on a different perspective of what’s acceptable and what’s unacceptable behavior?

2. Evaluate your criticizer. (Vs. 15-17)

Philippians 1:15–17 (ESV) — 15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

- Life lesson: Seek to understand the motive behind the criticism.

3. Evaluate your God. (V. 18)

Philippians 1:18 (ESV) — 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

- Life lesson: Believe that God is at work, even in the midst of the criticism.

How God works in criticism:

If the criticism is valid:

1. He keeps us humble.
2. He reveals our blind spots.
3. He reminds us that we need Jesus.
4. He prepares us for greater growth.

If the criticism is invalid:

1. He teaches us courage and determination.
2. He teaches us to be polite when we're mistreated.
3. He reminds us that the only opinion that really matters is His.

S.A.L.T. Group questions

- Have someone read Sunday's passage: Philippians 1:12-18
 - What truths stand out to you?
- 1. Think of a time you were criticized and share generalities with the group.
 - Was the criticism valid or invalid? How did you know it was valid or invalid?
 - How did you handle the criticism?
 - What could you have done differently?
- 2. If you have received invalid criticism, how the criticize or make you feel?
 - As you look back on the criticism, what lessons did you learn from God? (See the box, "How God works in criticism")
- 3. How did you view God in the midst of the criticism?
 - Did you ever doubt His love for you?
 - Were you able to see how God was using the criticism to work out His purposes in your life?
 - What advice would you give someone who is hurting from being criticized?

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