
The Way Of Wisdom
"Criticism"
Proverbs 9:7-9

03-29-26

Introduction: We are working our way through Proverbs in search of wisdom so we can better navigate life.

1. In that journey through life, we will eventually experience criticism/correction.
 - More than likely, this started in your home with mom and dad.
 - Extended family probably played a role.
 - Then came teachers, coaches, spiritual leaders, and other mentors.
 - But it didn't end there, spouses, employers, friends, and at times strangers weighed in.
 - Even God can be a critic.
2. Generally speaking, most of us don't like to be criticized or corrected.
3. It is not uncommon to react poorly to criticism.
4. Realistically, there are times when criticism is unwarranted, but at times criticism/correction is needed.
5. That means we should learn to respond to criticism wisely.

I. We Should Evaluate Criticism Carefully

A. A Careful Listener Is Wise

- The Message
- The Messenger
- The Manner

B. A Careless Listener Is Foolish

- Guard Against Defensiveness
- Guard Against Denial
- Guard Against Apathy

II. We Should Respond To Criticism Humbly

A. Humility Is Anchored In The Fear Of God

B. Humility Is Necessary To Be Honored By God

Conclusion: Because we will never be perfect in this life, criticism and correction will come our way.

1. We see it as a negative, but it's actually an opportunity to learn and grow.
2. When we respond well, we become better men and women.