

Wild

“The Dead Dog Syndrome— Dealing with Criticism”

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*“But among the Israelites it will be so peaceful that not even a **dog** will bark. Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites.”*

Exodus 11:7 NLT

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1

John 4:1 NKJV

My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. Not everyone who talks about God comes from God. There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world. MSG

Overcoming a critical spirit:

● **Christians have not all _____.**
If there is someone whose faith is weak, be kind and receive him. Do not argue about what he thinks. Rom 14:1 NLT

● **Some areas are matters of _____.**
For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.
Rom 14: 2-4 MSG

● **Allow others to develop their own**

“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Rom. 14:5

● **Every believer will give _____.**
But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. Rom 14:10, 12-13 NKJV

Responding to the pain of criticism:

● **David remembered his own _____.**
But the king said, ‘What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’” David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. 2 Samuel 16:10-11

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:8-9

● **David REMEMBERED God's _____.**
David wrote psalm 3 & 4 while he was fleeing Absalom. O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.” But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill.” Psalm 3:1-4

● **David REMEMBERED God's _____.**
“I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.”
Psalm 3:5-8