

# Dealing with Critical People

## Windows to the Heart: PRAISE and CRITICISM

*"It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song [praise] of fools."* Ecclesiastes 7:5

✚ Praise often reveals what you \_\_\_\_\_ most

✚ Criticism often reveals your deepest \_\_\_\_\_

*"Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?"* Matthew 7:4

WRONG RESPONSES: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

## RIGHT RESPONSES TO CRITICAL PEOPLE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, 'What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?' And Balaam said to the donkey, 'Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!' So the donkey said to Balaam, 'Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?' And he said, 'No.'" Numbers 22:28-30*

### **Especially when...**

- the person has the \_\_\_\_\_ to help
- the person has the \_\_\_\_\_ to help

*"He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding."* Proverbs 15:31-32

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Especially when...**

- the person is missing \_\_\_\_\_
- the person is willing to \_\_\_\_\_

*"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness." Proverbs 15:1-2*

*"Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?" And they criticized him sharply. But he answered them, "What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren't the gleanings of Ephraim's grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer? God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?" At this, their resentment against him subsided." Judges 8:1-3*

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Especially when...**

- The person is overly \_\_\_\_\_
- The person is emotionally \_\_\_\_\_

*"But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." Matthew 15:13-14*

*"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."*

Galatians 1:10