

# Surviving the Critic Within

## Surviving the Challenges of Life

*James 4:11-12*

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*Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law.*

— James 4:11 NKJV

### Two Reasons We Criticize

1. We love to accuse others and excuse ourselves (Rom. 2:3).
2. Our curiosity is always hungry (Prov. 26:22; 6:16-17).

### Three Reasons We Should Not Criticize

1. It is unchristian (James 4:11; John 8:44).
2. It is unloving (James 4:11; 2:8).
3. It is unjustified (James 4:12).

### Seven Reasons It is Wrong to Criticize

1. You are practicing the same sin (Rom. 2:1-3).
2. It blinds you to your own faults (Matt. 7:3-5).

3. When you draw conclusions based on outward appearance (John 7:24; 1 Sam. 16:7).
4. Before you hear all the facts (John 7:51).
5. When extra-biblical standards are used (Rom. 14:1-4, 13; Col. 2:16).
6. When it devalues a brother or sister (James 4:11; Eph. 4:29).
7. When we assume we know inner motives (1 Cor. 4:5).

### Three Strategies to Overcome the Criticizing Habit

1. Remember the principle of sowing and reaping (Matt. 7:1-2).
2. Remember we are accountable to God (Rom. 14:12-13).
3. Remember God's merciful treatment (James 2:13; Matt. 18:21-35).

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