



Part 5 - How to Silence Your Critics

I Peter 2:11-25

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I. INTRODUCTION

When we are criticized, the first thing all of us have to do is to discern the **validity** of the criticism and the **intent** of that criticism before we will know how to deal with it.

II. CHOOSE THE HIGH ROAD OF **INTEGRITY**. (I Peter 2:11-12)

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NIV) "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ By faith, Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

A. People are **watching** our every move to see what kind of person we are.

*I Peter 2:12 People who do not believe are living all around you. Live such good lives that they will **see** the good things you do and will give glory to God.*

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

B. The hallmark of the Christian life is **integrity**.

*I Peter 2:11 "I urge you to live in this world as strangers and temporary residents, to **keep clear** of the desires of your lower nature for they are always at war with your soul."*

C. How do we get out of the trap of the compromise of our character?

1. Admit to **yourself** when you have a problem.
2. Admit it to **God** and ask forgiveness.
3. Admit it to others that your sin has affected and ask their forgiveness.
4. Make **restitution** to others where needed. Pay back what you owe, make amends, what ever is required to make restitution.
5. Place yourself in a position in which you will not fall in that area again. Stop going to places that make it easy to fall and stop doing things that were tripping you up.

III. YIELD TO **AUTHORITY** FOR THE LORD'S SAKE. (1 Peter 2:13-18)

A. We are to respect them. Why? It says, "For the **Lord's** sake."

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. "

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV) "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

1 Peter 2:18-19 "Be good servants to your masters -- not to just good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason."

1 Peter 2:15 "For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men."

B. 1 Peter 2:17 says three things will reveal what kind of person we are:

1. Show respect for **everybody**.
2. Love **Christians** everywhere.
3. Fear God and honor the **government**.

