

20260209 Lector Report

Why do people criticize?

This might be one of the great mysteries. We are not designed to find fault, and yet we do.

Is it to cover our faults?

Do you think finding fault in others distracts them from our faults?

Finding faults in others does not improve our situation. It only deflects the reality that will eventually be seen.

Luke 6:41-42 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

Opening by mentioning our faults does not make us look or sound superior to anyone; rather, it draws more attention to ourselves, allowing others to find our faults.

Have you ever noticed that when someone gives you an answer or response to a question you ask, it is usually the exact reason why they may need your help or support?

People are hurting inside, yet when asked if they need help, we typically hear, “I’m good, I’m doing fine,” or some other deflection.

Physical wounds are easily spotted. Emotional wounds are not.

What would happen if you had the best of intentions to help someone with their spiritual life, but they responded, “I’m fine,” even when they are not living a life that would indicate that?

Our view is completely different than God’s view. We see things through the human eye, and he sees into our hearts.

When a response is not accurate, a simple request of “God, I have tried it on my own, and it has not worked. I turn it over to you, and I am here to serve your will.”

That statement of humility is not a sign of weakness but a sign of faith that God is the way, the truth, and the life.

No truer words could ever be spoken.

Colossians 3:12 says, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

You, me, and every other human being are a child of God, and we are his family. Humble yourself, and you will be the center of attention at God’s family reunion.

It is a fine line between showing concern and compassion and being critical.

Trust your skills and talents God gave you. Every element of our being is designed and intended for good. God cannot give bad or evil. That is our doing.

So, if you help and encourage with the proper intent, goodwill will eventually result.

The last word in the above-mentioned verse, Col 3:12, is patience.

We are not omnipotent or God-like, and our efforts do not magically change others or, more importantly, change ourselves. God does give patience, but He gives it through trial and error so we can fully understand and grasp it with the confidence we gain by overcoming adversity.

God is the loving father, and as every father takes joy, pride, and happiness in the successes of his children, so does God. God wants us to succeed and overcome, and He proudly calls us his children.

We follow our father when we conduct ourselves as he intended. Finding good vs finding fault is a great place to start.

Even if someone, or a family member, has done you wrong, do you really want that to determine their eternal fate?

Why have you loved that person for as long as you can remember? Because you have seen their goodness and believe they are capable of giving more.

Would they say the same about you?

1 Corinthians 10:24 says, “No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.”

It is not just an idea but a direction straight from God that we are to seek the good of others.

James 1:5 reinforces God's position and why he desires us to imitate him. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

Give without finding fault.

Vocal criticism speaks volumes, so does your empathy and desire to love and help others.

And that is something everyone can do.

Vivat Jesus.