



MONSTERS IN THE CLOSET

Confronting the Fears that Often
Hold Us Back in Our Spiritual Lives



THE MONSTER OF
CRITICISM

CRITICISM

DEFINITION

An expression of disapproval based on perceived faults or mistakes in life.



¹ O Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry!
Listen when I cry to you for help!

² Accept my prayer as incense offered to you,
and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

³ Take control of what I say, O Lord,
and guard my lips.

⁴ Don't let me drift toward evil
or take part in acts of wickedness.
Don't let me share in the delicacies
of those who do wrong.

PSALM 141 NLT

⁵ Let the godly strike me!

It will be a kindness!

If they correct me, it is soothing medicine.

Don't let me refuse it.

But I pray constantly

against the wicked and their deeds.

⁶ When their leaders are thrown down from a cliff,

the wicked will listen to my words and find them true.

⁷ Like rocks brought up by a plow,

the bones of the wicked will lie scattered without burial.

PSALM 141 NLT

- ⁸ I look to you for help, O Sovereign Lord.
You are my refuge; don't let them kill me.
- ⁹ Keep me from the traps they have set for me,
from the snares of those who do wrong.
- ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
but let me escape.

PSALM 141 NLT

IN PSALM 141 THERE ARE THREE
OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLES THAT
TEACH US HOW TO DEAL
WITH CRITICISM IN OUR LIFE

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1

To deal with criticism, you must live a guarded life

¹ O Lord, I am calling to you. Please hurry!
Listen when I cry to you for help!

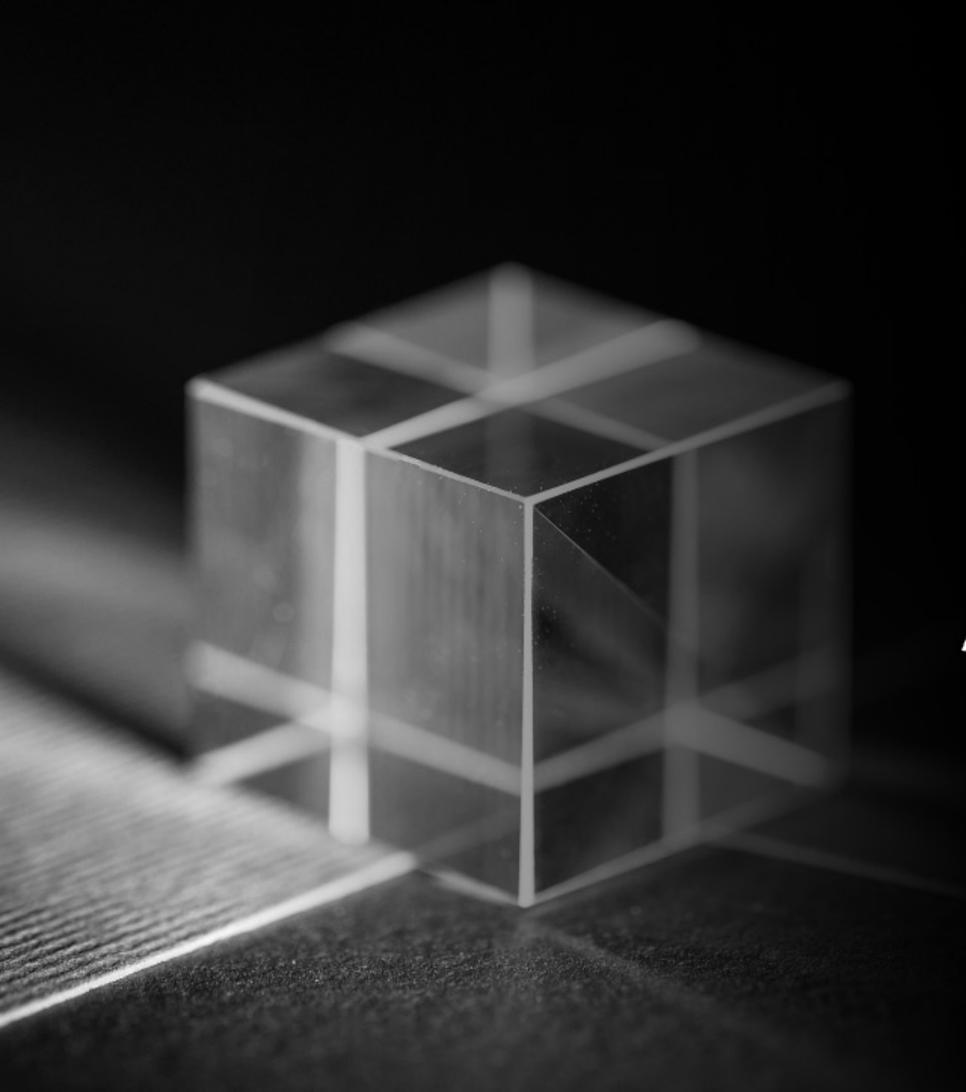
² Accept my prayer as incense offered to you,
and my upraised hands as an evening offering.

PSALM 141:1-2 NLT

³ Take control of what I say, O Lord,
and guard my lips.

⁴ Don't let me drift toward evil
or take part in acts of wickedness.
Don't let me share in the delicacies
of those who do wrong.

PSALM 141:3-4 NLT



**DAVID IS ASKING GOD TO
HELP HIM LIVE HIS LIFE
ABOVE REPROACH**

You cannot avoid the criticism that some people may put on you.

You can live in such a way that makes it hard for others to believe it.



IN PSALM 141 THERE ARE THREE OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLES THAT TEACH US HOW TO DEAL WITH CRITICISM IN OUR LIFE

2

To deal with criticism, we must welcome the wounds of correction

⁵ Let the godly strike me!

It will be a kindness!

If they correct me, it is soothing medicine.

Don't let me refuse it.

PSALM 141:5A NLT

¹ To learn, you must love discipline;
it is stupid to hate correction.

PROVERBS 12:1 NLT

⁶ Wounds from a sincere friend
are better than many kisses from an enemy.

PROVERBS 27:6 NLT

WHO DO YOU TRUST IN
YOUR LIFE TO WOUND YOU?



WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO HELP US
WELCOME THE WOUNDS OF CORRECTION:

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Ask the Lord to help you
manage defensiveness

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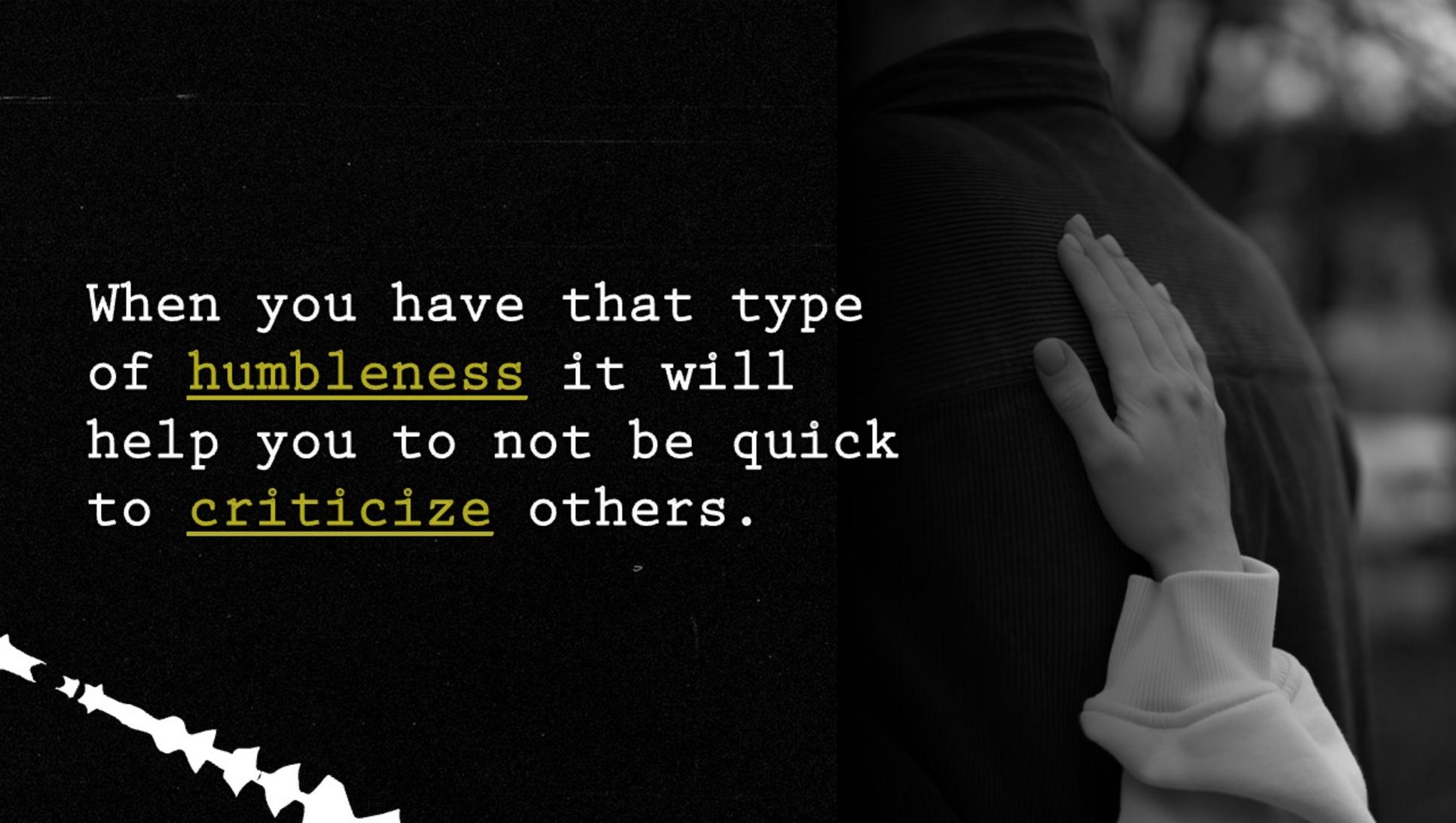


Ask the Lord to help you
manage defensiveness



Remember that it is
worse than anyone could
ever imagine

When you have that type
of humbleness it will
help you to not be quick
to criticize others.



WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO HELP US WELCOME THE WOUNDS OF CORRECTION:



Ask the Lord to help you manage defensiveness



Remember that it is worse than anyone could ever imagine



Listen for the truth

Leave him alone. Let him curse. Perhaps
the Lord has told him to do so.

2 SAMUEL 16:11B EHV



DAVID WAS WILLING TO
HEAR WHAT GOD MIGHT
SAY TO HIM THROUGH A
CURSING CRITIC.

IN PSALM 141 THERE ARE THREE OVER-ARCHING PRINCIPLES THAT TEACH US HOW TO DEAL WITH CRITICISM IN OUR LIFE

3

Lean on the Lord
for protection

But I pray constantly
against the wicked and their deeds.
⁶ When their leaders are thrown down from a
cliff,
the wicked will listen to my words and find
them true.

PSALM 141:5-6B NLT

- ⁸ I look to you for help, O Sovereign Lord.
You are my refuge; don't let them kill me.
- ⁹ Keep me from the traps they have set for me,
from the snares of those who do wrong.
- ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
but let me escape.

PSALM 141:8-10 NLT