

Class - Sunday, 5:00 pm, April 9.

Criticism - receiving and giving - Bad? Good?

1. Read **Jn 7:12**. If you had been in the crowd and heard these two contrasting statements about this man, what challenge would you have faced?
2. Read **Jn 7:15-23**. What did Jesus do in response to the criticism he was receiving? (note first few words of **vv16, 21**)
There were at least three different groups on this occasion with different views regarding Jesus—the “Jews” (i.e. the rulers) who wanted to kill Jesus, **vv13,15,19,32,35**; the “crowd” - pilgrims coming to the feast who did not know of the Jews plan to kill Jesus (**v2,20**), and the “people of Jerusalem” who did know of the plan of the rulers to kill Jesus (**v25**).
3. In the midst of all this criticism, what was Jesus admonition? **Jn 7:24**

“Aggressive” - right or wrong?

1. Look up the meaning of “aggressive.” Is it *right* or *wrong*? Explain. (Remember, the “bus” may have more than one “passenger.”)
2. Read **Num 25:1-13**. Would you describe Phinehas’ action as “aggressive”? No/Yes? If yes, what definition from the dictionary would you use? What was God’s view of his behavior?
3. Look up the *antonyms* of “aggressive”—are *all* of these *desirable*? If not, give examples.

Hostile

1. Look up the meaning of “hostile.” Is “hostility” wrong? Explain. (Remember the “bus”...)
2. Read **Num 25:16-18**. Compare the NASB with the NKJV, ESV. What attitude and conduct was Moses instructed to have toward the Midianites?

Intimidation

1. While “intimidation” *can* refer to a forceful, *intended* effect of fear and lack of action, it can be simply due to the *circumstances* and have nothing to do with intent or base motives. Find examples in dictionaries that show “intimidation” may be the result of *circumstances*, not base motives by someone who *intended* to intimidate.
2. Read **Mt 22:46** and the context. Why were the Pharisees and Sadducees intimidated into not asking Jesus another question? (Compare also **Mk 9:32** in context.)

Case Studies (as time allows)

There are a number of examples the Holy Spirit has given of people that taunted and responded to people in a way that we might consider “aggressive” and even “hostile,” but were people used and approved by God.

Moses - Num 12:3; Ex 32:19

Samuel - 1Sam 15:32-33

John the Baptist - Mt 3:7-12

Jesus - Mt 15:1-14

Paul - 1Co 3:1-2; 4:10; 4:19; 6:5; 11:17

