

# **10 Reasons I Choose Not To Respond To My Critics**

## **1) Because Jesus did and now I can**

***'He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth' (Isa.53:7)***

- ✓ ***He was silent before the high priest and the Sanhedrin: 'And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent' (Matt.26:62-63)***
- ✓ ***Before Pilate: '...went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer' (Jn.19:9). 'And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly' (Mt.27:12-14)***

- ✓ **Before Herod:** *'Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing'* (Lk.23:9)
- ✓ **Jesus was meek, but not weak**
- ✓ **The Greek word for meek is *praus*, meaning strength under control**
- ✓ ***Praus*, is often used in non-biblical literature for taming wild animals**
- ✓ **Jesus did not attack His enemies. Instead, He died to save them**
- ✓ **He gives His meekness to us, 'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light'** (Mt.11:29-30)

## 2) My critics do not define me - Christ does

- ✓ **Words are powerful, and they can be powerfully destructive. They may give a false identity message**
- ✓ **By responding to criticism, I give significance to it**

**“SOMEONE ELSE’S  
OPINION OF YOU  
DOES NOT HAVE TO  
BECOME YOUR REALITY.”**

### **3) By responding I become like my critic**

- ✓ ***'Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him' (Prov.26:4)***
- ✓ **'Any fool can criticize – and most fools do'**
- ✓ **Criticism says more about my critic than about me**

#### **4) I know I will never beat flesh with flesh**

- ✓ **Walk according to the Spirit, not the flesh**
- ✓ ***'Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men'* (Rom.12:17)**
- ✓ **The problem is we get even by habit. So we have to plan ahead how we are going to respond. Regard, respect = to perceive beforehand, to foresee, to think beforehand, to provide**
- ✓ **Make plans now how you will respond then. Who are your critics, and how do they provoke you? Don't wait until the moment to decide how you will act. You'll be at the mercy of your emotions**

## **5) My reputation is not important – but my testimony is**

- ✓ **My testimony is important, because it gives glory to God**
- ✓ **My reputation is not as important as I used to think it was. We do not pity self, defend self, talk about self-rights, etc. Why? Because we have come to a biblical estimate of self – crucified with Christ**
- ✓ **If Jesus had saved Himself, He would not have saved others. That's the principle of the cross. As we reckon ourselves dead, life spreads to others, and God is glorified**

6) I am accountable – but to the right people

That one Facebook friend who  
only pops up to disagree





- ✓ **Ask: Is it constructive? Has it come from someone who has my best interests at heart?**  
*'But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you'* (1 Cor.4:3)
- ✓ **Make yourself accountable to the right people – not trolls or mean-spirited people**
- ✓ *'Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful'* (Prov.27:5-6)
- ✓ **Friendships are mutually edifying relationships where constructive criticism is reciprocated**

## 7) Often, criticism is a distraction

### ✓ **Examples:**

- ✓ **Gideon and the men of Ephraim.** *'What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?'* (**Judges 8:1-2**)
- ✓ **Nehemiah.** *'So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"'* (**Neh.6:3**)

## 8) If I respond, God won't

- ✓ *'Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth'* (Num.12:3 KJV) - but not naturally!
- ✓ **It took Moses 40 years to learn not to be touched by the words of man. 40 years earlier Moses dealt with people by his own hand. He made room for God and God moved suddenly (see v.4)**
- ✓ *'Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord'* (Rom.12:19)
- ✓ **Only God is qualified. So, step aside and allow Him to do it if, when and how He pleases**

9) It may even be that God will use it

**When Shimei cursed David, he said to his men,  
'Let him alone, and let him curse; for so  
the LORD has ordered him...' (2 Sam.16:11)**

## **10) I want to make room for God to do a miracle**

***'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good'* (Rom.12:21). Christians are not pacifists. We must aggressively fight evil and overcome it. But our weapons are not carnal**

**There is nothing passive about the cross. Jesus didn't have His life taken from Him, He laid it down. In doing so He laid hold upon the most powerful weapon – good - and with it He overcame evil**

**Good is more powerful than evil. Evil will never be overcome with evil, only with good**

**What does that mean? How do we do that?**

***'Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse' (Rom.12:14). 'Bless' is from the Greek word eulogeo; eu = well; logo = to speak. To bless someone is to speak well of them. 'Curse' is to speak evil of someone, either publicly, or privately***

***Jesus taught us to pray for our enemy. Ask God to do that person good, to change them, to save them***

***What good will that do? See Lk.23:34; Acts 7:60. Both these prayers were answered***

***This is the life of Christ. '...who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously' (1 Pet.2:23)***

***'Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head"' (Rom.12:20)***

**Hot coals poured on his head is not revenge. It is warfare tactics. Renders enemy powerless**

**It is God's own method for subduing His enemies.  
Rom.2:4; 5:8&10**

**Discover a legitimate need in that person's life,  
and meet it**

**When Jesus reigns over the earth the wolf will lie  
down with the lamb, a child will play over a  
snakes nest, etc.**

**When that happens before His return it means  
He reigns in us now**