**Criticism - Ponderings**

**For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Criticism can be the best medicine to help you to success -- provided you are willing to swallow it. *(O. A. Battista)***

**It does take experience and discipline on the part of a people not to regard conscientious criticism as really subversive. *(George Anastaplo, constitutional scholar, 2004)***

**Nobody wants constructive criticism. It’s all we can do to put up with constructive praise. *(Mignon McLaughlin)***

**The difference between constructive and destructive criticism is simple: the former is what you give while the latter is what you get. *(Frank Walsh, in National Enquirer)***

**Criticism is easier to take when you realize that the only people who aren't criticized are those who don't take risks. *(Donald Trump)***

**To escape criticism – do nothing, say nothing, be nothing. *(Elbert Hubbard, American author and publisher)***

**For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. *(Harrison’s Postulate)***

**We tend to forget that criticism sometimes expresses greater respect than praise. It is surely more of an honor than flattery. As a professor, you challenge a student because you consider her capable of learning. You question her premises because you think she’s game enough to re-examine them. *(Wendy Kaminer, in The Atlantic Monthly)***

**Do what you feel in your heart to be right -- for you'll be criticized anyway. *(Eleanor Roosevelt)***

**The goal of criticism is to leave the person with the feeling that he or she has been helped. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**You have been criticizing yourself for years and it hasn't worked. Try approving of yourself and see what happens. *(Louise Hay, motivational speaker)***

**Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger. *(Franklin P. Jones)***

**Criticism won’t hurt you unless it should. *(Grand Island, Nebraska, Weekly Shopper)***

**If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won’t amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**There are two insults which no human will endure: the assertion that he hasn’t a sense of humor, and the doubly impertinent assertion that he has never known trouble. *(Sinclair Lewis)***

**Try to be charitable in your judgment of others. Everyone makes mistakes sometimes, so don’t be too harsh about them. It may seem superior, smart, and clever to be critical, but it’s a poor way to make or keep friends. Furthermore, it seldom accomplishes as much as a friendly, understanding reminder. Sharp criticism makes people angry, not sorry. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**When you feel like criticizing the kids just remember who raised them. *(Jesse Andrews)***

**Every young man should learn to take criticism. He'll probably be a parent someday. *(Franklin P. Jones, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**I love criticism just so long as it's unqualified praise. *(Sir Noel Coward)***

**Praise can give criticism a lead around the first turn and still win the race. *(Bern Williams, in National Enquirer)***

The right to criticize must be earned, even if the advice is constructive in nature. Before you are entitled to tinker with another person’s self-esteem, you are obligated first to demonstrate your respect for him as a person. When a relationship of confidence has been carefully constructed, you will have earned the right to discuss a potentially threatening topic. Your motives will have been thereby clarified. *(James Dobson, in What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About)*

Silence is sometimes the severest criticism. *(Buxton)*

It takes a good man to give criticism objectively. It takes an even better man to accept it without resentment. *(Bern Williams)*

Establish a policy of taking all criticism as friendly. Once you insist to yourself that the other person is well-intentioned, you’ll get value from legitimate criticism, if there’s any there to get, and you won’t be bothered by the rest. When you concede a critic’s good will, you disarm an attacker and encourage an ally. *(Carroll O’Connor)*

Time is the only critic without personal ambition. *(John Steinbeck)*

**Unjust criticism is usually a disguised compliment. It often means that you have aroused jealousy and envy. Remember that no one ever kicks a dead dog. (Dale Carnegie)**

**In the face of unjust criticism we can become bitter or better; upset or understanding; hostile or humble; furious or forgiving. *(William Arthur Ward)***

**No one appreciates the value of constructive criticism more thoroughly than the one who’s giving it. (Hal Chadwick)**

**All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism. *(S.C.U.C.A. Regional Reporter)***

**Wit has truth in it; wisecracking is merely calisthenics with words. *(Dorothy Parker)***

**The worst criticism seeks to have the last word and leave the rest of us in silence; the best opens up an exchange that need never end. *(Rebecca Solnit, critic)***

**Writing criticism is to writing fiction and poetry as hugging the shore is to sailing in the open sea. *(John Updike)***

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