



The Critical Choice

Galatians 5:13-16 (ESV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

I. Will you choose to spend your life being a fault finder?

A. Fault finding is a result of being spiritually empty.

- Loving the unlovable is impossible except for Christ alive within you.

I John 3:14 (NIV)

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

B. Fault finding is a result of being insecure.

C. Fault finding is a result of being uninformed.

- Criticism has far more power than you ever realized.
(Galatians 5:14-15)

Living free from criticism:

- Learn to walk in the Spirit.
(Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:29–30)
- Pray for them.
- Bear with them. (Ephesians 4:1-2)

2. Will you choose to spend your life being a hope dealer?

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

I Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- Thanksgiving is the antidote to complaining and encouraging is the antidote to criticism.