

# The Cross and Criticism

## *Application Questions*

Before reading the article, answer the following questions.

1. Define criticism in your own words as you presently understand it.
2. Consider Psalm 141:5, what was David's view of criticism?
3. Compare and contrast your response to criticism:
4. Consider the following verses. Write down the key thought of each passage as it relates to receiving criticism.
  - Prov. 12:15
  - Prov. 13:13
  - Prov. 9:9
  - Prov. 15:32
5. Read the article.
6. How does the author define criticism?
7. Why is criticism so hard to receive?
8. What is "the dynamic of defensiveness against criticism"? What is at stake?
9. What idol is at work and what does it undermine?
10. According to the author, what does the cross affirm? Condemn?
11. Synthesize what it means that "in Christ's Cross I agree with God's judgment of me":

12. Synthesize what it means that “in Christ’s Cross I agree with God’s justification of me”:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Describe the attitude that the author is encouraging us to have as we are criticized. Apply this to a particular situation that you are presently involved.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. What is the origin of criticism? What should that provoke in us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What does humility look like in the life of the individual who sees criticism in this way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. Be prepared to recite an example where you have applied these truths to a situation where you received or gave criticism well.