GIFT OF CRITICISM ISN'T

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Galatians 5: 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, **jealousies**, outbursts of **wrath**, **selfish ambitions**, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

1

The "Gift of Criticism" ISN'T <isn't> <isn't> a gift God EVER gives. For the words of Criticism tear down......... They hurt and NEVER build.

CHORUS

It is PRIDE that likes to claim, "Hey, it's just facts that I say." God says through Galatians 5,

Discernment speaks LOVING-ly, with KIND-ness, that God **LOVES** in us! (Galatians 5). YES: Do discern what is RIGHT, but speak Truth only as led by GOD, for

love, not pride: Ephesians 4: 15. A

critical Spirit is PRIDE, that God **HATES** in us! (Galatians 5).

2

The act of Criticism ISN'T <isn't> <isn't> an act God EVER approves. For the words of Criticism tear UP....... the heart of listeners. >> CHORUS

3

The command for Discernment ... <discernment> does NOT mean "Criticize". For a heart that blames cannot help "them" find joy in seeing what's Right. >> CHORUS

Ephesians 4:14 and **15** - we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the **trickery** of men, in the **cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting**, but, speaking the **truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— "

Song Story. One of my Dad's favorite stories was of the new young preacher assigned to a little country church. A "pillar of the church" had a reputation of driving out anyone who disagreed with his thinking. So he soon invited the preacher to dinner, outlined to the preacher all the "gifts" of other church people... the lady who was "OK" in music, the ones who could handle rowdy kids (like theirs), those who made mistakes in church records, so-so teachers (& the ones who should be replaced). Finally the preacher asked, "So what is YOUR gift to offer God?"... The man replied: "God gave me the **Gift of Criticism.** When I see something wrong, I go tell the person."... The young pastor silently prayed, then asked, "You remember Jesus's parable of the talents?" The man **proudly** said "Yes!", **expecting praise as a 10-talent guy**. The preacher asked, "Do you remember what the man with only 1 talent did with it?" "Of course!" the man **scoffed**: He just went & buried it!"... The preacher quietly finished: "May I suggest that you "Go & do likewise"?....