

The Heart of a Critic

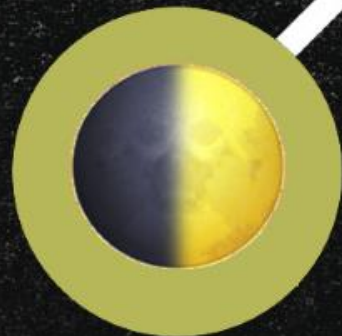
Matthew 7:1-2

1. What does it mean to judge another?
 - a. It cannot mean, "Don't make _____ judgments."
 - b. It means do not apply your own _____ of judgment to others.
 - c. It means do not _____ yourself in the _____ of the Judge.

2. What drives the critical heart?
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

3. What are the consequences of a critical spirit?
 - a. Broken _____.
 - b. God's _____.

**BE DIFFERENT
LIVE DIFFERENT**



An Essential Starting Place

Matthew 5:2-3

He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,
“Blessed are the **poor in spirit**,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

*Spiritual brokenness is the essential
starting place for gospel-shaped living.*

The Heart of a Critic

Matthew 7:1-2



Matthew 7:1-2

**Do not judge so that you will not be judged.
For in the way you judge, you will be judged;
and by your standard of measure,
it will be measured to you.**

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit and tie, kneeling and painting the bottom edge of a picture frame with a brush. The frame is ornate and has a decorative base. The man is looking down at his work.

**What does it mean
to judge another?**

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**What drives the
critical heart?**

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit and tie, kneeling and painting the bottom edge of a picture frame with a brush. The frame is ornate and has a decorative base. The man is looking down at his work.

**What are the consequences
of a critical heart?**

**What does it mean
to judge another?**



Judging Another

It cannot mean
“Don’t make **any** judgments”.

Matthew 7:5-6

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 18:15

And if your brother sins,
go and reprove him in private;
if he listens to you,
you have won your brother.

Judging Another

It cannot mean “Don’t make **any** judgments”.

It means do not apply **your own** standards of judgment to others.

Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.
Because by the judgment with which you judge
you will be judged;
And by the measure with which you measure
it will be measured to you.

Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

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James 4:11-12

Do not speak against one another, brethren.
He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother,
speaks against the law, and judges the law;
but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law,
but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,
the One who is able to save and to destroy;
but who are you who judge your neighbor?

James 4:11-12

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He who speaks against a brother, or **judges his brother,**
speaks against the law, and **judges the law;**

but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law,
but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,
the One who is able to save and to destroy;
but who are you who judge your neighbor?

What Jesus condemns is
judgment based on **your own**
set of standards.

Judging Another

It cannot mean “Don’t make **any** judgments”.

It means do not apply **your own** standards of judgment to others.

It means do not seat yourself in the
place of the Judge.

Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

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Because by the judgment with which you judge
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Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

Because by the judgment with which you judge
you will be judged;

And by the measure with which you measure
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*In other words,
“Do not **be** the judge!”*

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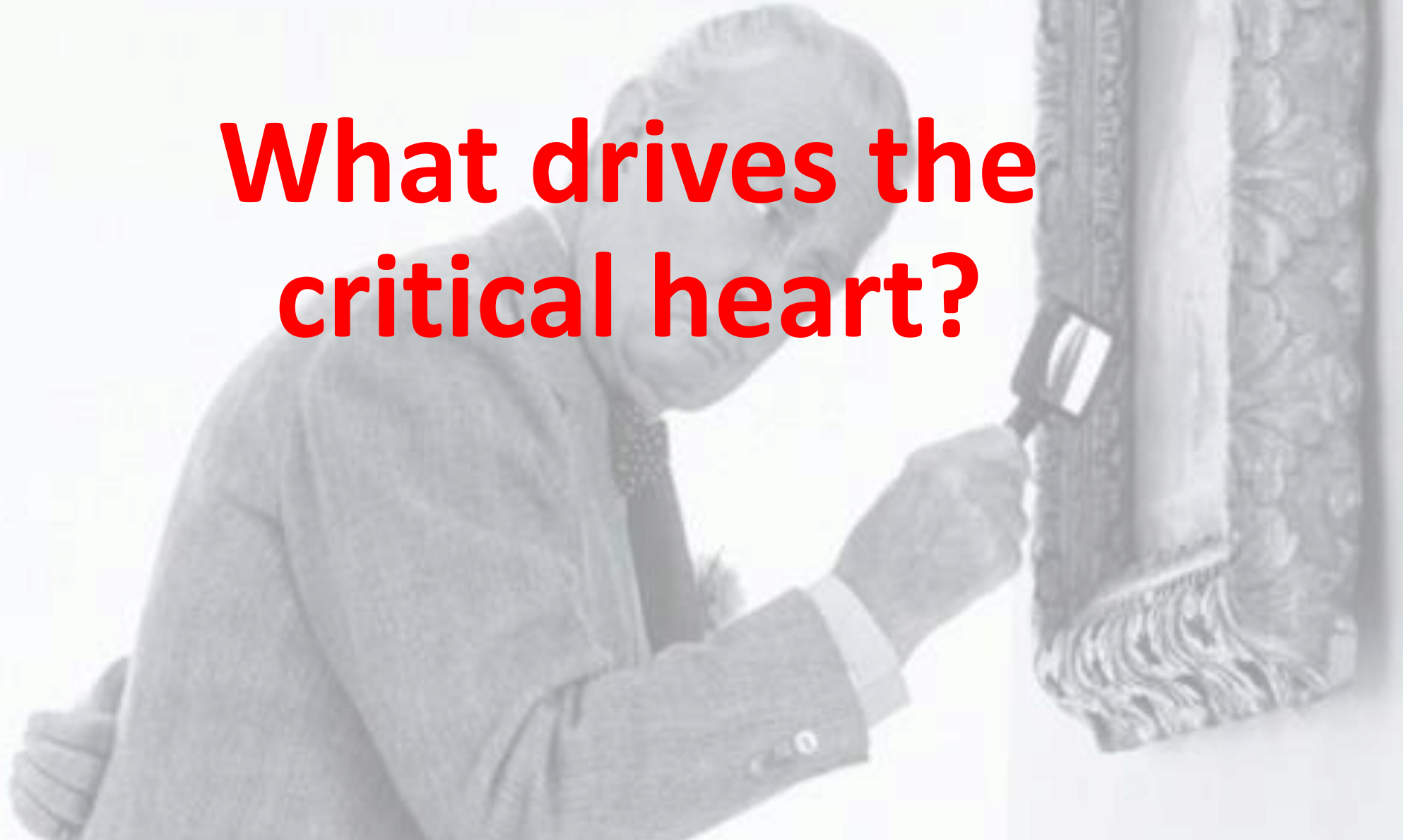
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but a judge of it. **There is only one** Lawgiver and **Judge**,
the One who is able to save and to destroy;
but who are you who judge your neighbor?

*Speaking against another reveals
that **you** have weighed them,
and **you** have found them wanting.
You have become their judge!*

**What drives the
critical heart?**



Pride drives the critical heart.

Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

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Because by the judgment with which you judge
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And by the measure with which you measure
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Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

Because by the judgment with which **you** judge

you will be judged;

And by the measure with which you measure
it will be measured to you.

Matthew 7:1-2 (KLT)

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

Because by the judgment with which **you** judge
you will be judged;

And by the measure with which **you** measure
it will be measured to you.

You are judging by **your** judgment,
and **you** are measuring by
your measurement.

James 4:11-12

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speaks against the law, and **judges the law;**

but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law,
but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,
the One who is able to save and to destroy;
but who are you who judge your neighbor?

When you judge with **your** law,
you are judging God's law as
incomplete, inadequate, and inferior.

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but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law,
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but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law,
but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,
the One who is able to save and to destroy;

but **who are you who judge your neighbor?**

When you judge another,
you betray your own sense
of superiority.

Pride drives the critical heart.

Self-righteousness drives
the critical heart.

Matthew 7:2 (KLT)

Because by the judgment with which you judge
you will be judged;
And by the measure with which you measure
it will be measured to you.

The critic must believe that he lives up to the standards, or at least those that matter most to him.

Matthew 7:3

Why do you look at the speck
that is in your brother's eye,
but do not notice the log
that is in your own eye?

Matthew 7:3

Why do **you** look at the speck
that is in your brother's eye,
but **do not notice the log**
that is **in your own eye?**

Pride drives the critical heart.

Self-righteousness drives the critical heart.

Covetousness drives
the critical heart.

Covetousness is a desire to
take for yourself what belongs
to another.

Romans 14

Romans 14:4

Who are you to judge the servant of another?
To his own master he stands or falls; and he will
stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:4

Who are you to judge **the servant of another?**

To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:4

Who are you to judge **the servant of another?**

To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

When you judge another,
you are acting as though
you're the master.

**What are the consequences
of a critical heart?**



Consequences

Broken relationships

Between you and others

Romans 14:10

But you, why do you judge your brother?
Or you again, why do you regard
your brother with contempt?
For we will all stand before
the judgment seat of God.

Between you and others

Romans 14:10

But you, why do **you judge your brother?**

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Between you and others

Romans 14:10

But you, why do you judge your brother?

Or you again, why do **you regard
your brother with contempt?**

For we will all stand before
the judgment seat of God.

You cannot dismiss your family member and expect to have harmony in the home.

Between you and God

James 4:6

Therefore it says,
"God is opposed to the proud,
but gives grace to the humble."

When you seat yourself
in the place of judge,
you go to war with God.

Consequences

Broken relationships

God's judgment

Matthew 7:1

Do not judge so that you will not be judged.

Matthew 7:1

Do not judge **so that** you will not be judged.

Matthew 7:1

Do not judge so that **you will not be judged.**

Judgment or Grace?

James 4:6

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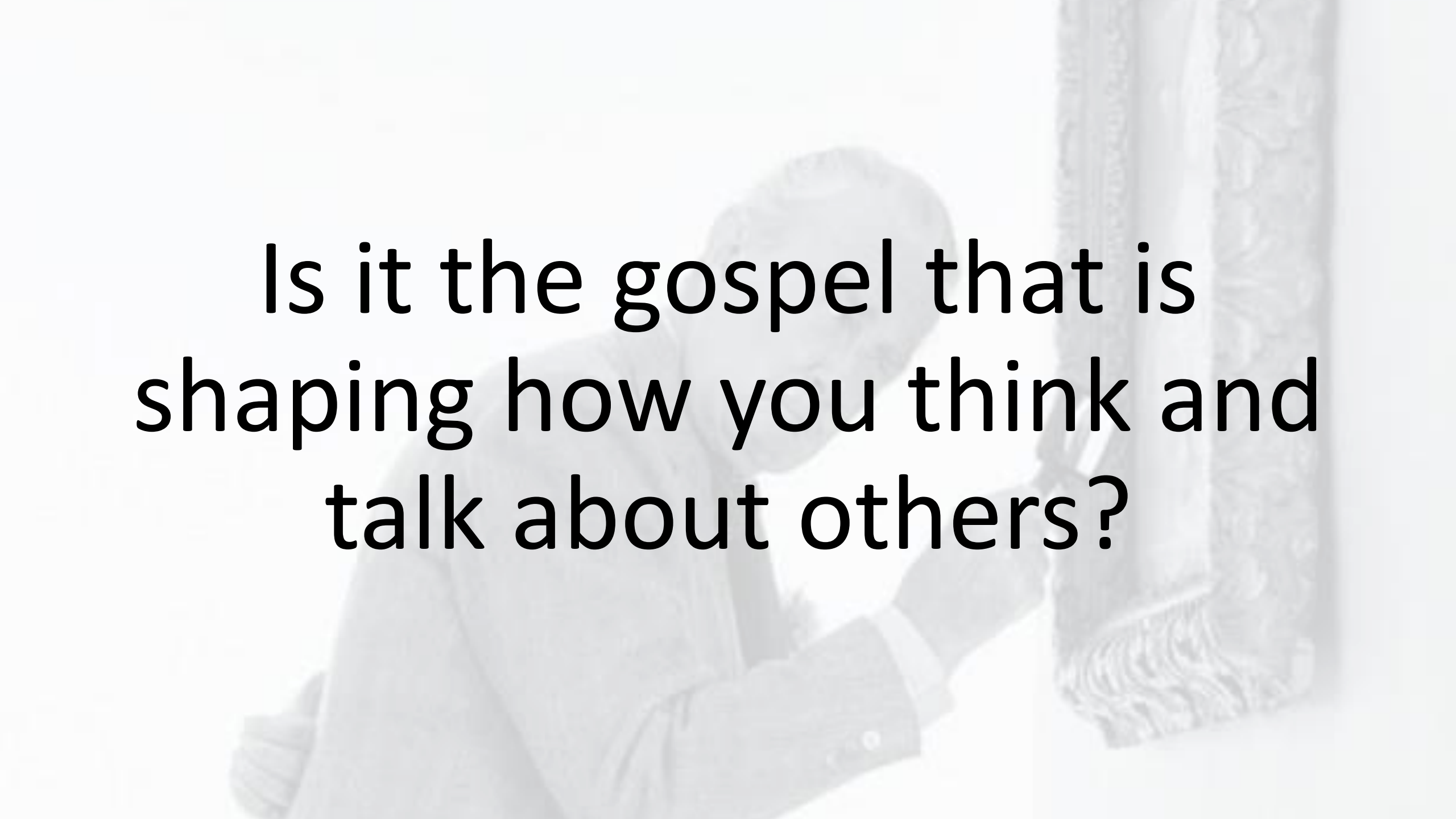
A gospel review for all of us critics...

The poor in spirit belong to the kingdom.

Mourners will be comforted.

The humble will inherit the earth.

The merciful will receive mercy.

A faded, grayscale background image of a man in a suit and tie, looking down at a framed document or scroll. The text is overlaid on this image.

Is it the gospel that is
shaping how you think and
talk about others?