



1. Christians must develop critical thinking, not a critical spirit.

"The church is imperfect, but woe to the man who takes pleasure in pointing out her imperfections!" Charles Spurgeon

God is God of truth (Ps 31:5). Jesus is the Truth (Jn 14:6). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, guiding us into all truth (Jn 14:17; 16:13). We must speak truth (Eph 4:25). Truth must be known to set people free (Jn 8:32).

"If you don't read the news, you're uninformed. If you do read the news, you're misinformed."
Denzel Washington

Critical thinking is an analytical process that involves asking questions, seeking to understand, and addressing ideas or actions. It's driven by humility, curiosity, and a unifying purpose.

A critical spirit is negative, fault-finding that tears down rather than builds up. It's marked by pride, indifference to people and context, and seeks to divide rather than unite.

Taken from Craig Groesche!

A cognitive bias is a systematic error in thinking when your brain wrongly filters information through your personal experiences and preferences. Here are three common cognitive biases:

- 1. Confirmation bias:** The tendency to search for and interpret information in a way that confirms your previous preconceptions.
- 2. Status quo bias:** When you prefer what's known over the unknown, even when the alternative options are objectively better.
- 3. Anchoring bias:** When you place too much weight on the first information you received about the subject.

"It's not that Gen Z has *lost* critical thinking skills; it is that they may have never fully developed in the first place." (Second Wave Learning)

2. Jesus promised that His followers would be falsely accused.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Matthew 5:11

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12

Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph (Gen 39:11-15)

Naboth was framed by Jezebel (1 Kings 21)

People (even prophets) lied about God (Jer 5:12)



The exiles rebuilding Jerusalem were lied about (Ezra 4:4-7; Neh 6:1-14)

They said John the Baptist had a demon (Luke 7:33)

Jesus was lied about (Mark 14:55-59)

- Destruction of the temple (Mark 14:55-59)
- Being a glutton and a drunk (Luke 7:34-35)
- Having a demon (Luke 11:14-15)
- Demon-possessed and insane (John 10:20)
- Out of his mind (Mark 3:21)
- An evildoer worthy of death (John 18:30-31)
- Blasphemy (Mark 14:61-64)
- Perverting the nation and forbidding people to pay taxes to Caesar (Luke 23:1-2)

Paul was falsely accused, arrested, and imprisoned (Acts 16:20; 18:13; 21:28; 24:5-6)

Rome accused Christians of atheism, cannibalism, and sexual orgies.

3. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, and Jesus declares God's name to His brethren (Heb 2:12)

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. Revelation 12:10

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

4. The body of Christ is prone to an autoimmune disease.

In autoimmune diseases, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own cells, tissues, and organs, leading to inflammation and damage.

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Corinthians 1:10

with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3

fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Philippians 2:2-3

5. The family of God must fight but not each other.

The first murder in the Bible was when a brother killed a brother (Gen 4)

"You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren, the children of Israel" 1 Kings 12:24

We pray "Our Father," not "My Father" (Mt 6:9-12)



Jesus prayed for us to be one as the three Persons of the Trinity are one (Jn 17:21)

Our fight is not against flesh and blood (Eph 6:12)

God commands blessing on brothers to dwell in unity (Ps 133:1-3)

6. God can do His perfect work through imperfect people.

Jesus told us that some may perform miracles in His name without following His ways (Mt 7:22-23)

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:29

Men of God are like gloves. They can rip, but the work of God continues.

For every famous pastor who falls into sin, there are thousands of faithful pastors who don't.

Two extremes: **demonizing** men of God and **idolizing** men of God

Drop the stone and pick up a mirror.

Your response to someone's sin can also be a sin.

7. Disagreeing on minor things doesn't make one a false teacher.

"...for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." Acts 20:27

Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures but only knew the baptism of John; he wasn't called a false teacher (Acts 18:24-28)

According to OT, the characteristic of the false prophet is

1. Speak for God when unappointed (Deut 18:20-23)
2. Leading people to serve other gods (Deut 13)

According to Jesus, false prophets are recognized by their fruit (Mt 7:15-20)

According to Peter, false teachers are those who

1. Deny Christ (2 Pet 2:1)
3. Exploit believers for personal gain (2 Pet 2:3)
4. Abuse Christian freedom, neglect duty (2 Pet 2:10, 19)

Teaching Test:

- Does it reinforce God's Word?
- Does it lead me to Christ?
- Does it fill me with love for His church?
- Does it strengthen my faith and give me an honorable purpose in life?
- Does it turn me from wrongdoing, promoting righteousness and purity in my life?
- Does it find wide acceptance and affirmation by notable men and women of God?
- Does it build up the body of Christ, equipping believers for the work of ministry?

8. Pay attention to what you give attention to.

Your ear is your womb. Whatever you listen to, either good or bad, is conceived and will be given birth to in due time and season. Choose what to listen to and what to ignore.



Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. Mark 4:24

2023's Top Ten Fast Food Joints in the USA

1. McDonald's
2. Starbucks
3. Chick-fil-A
4. Taco Bell
5. Wendy's
6. Dunkin'
7. Subway
8. Burger King
9. Domino's
10. Chipotle