"Constructive Criticism" John 14:7-11

Introduction:

- 1. There Are Few Things:
 - More Frustrating:
 - Than Getting Stuck!
 - And If You've Ever Gotten Stuck:
 - In Traffic:
 - I'm Sure You Know What I Mean!
- 2. However It Can Be:
 - Almost As Frustrating:
 - Trying To Help Someone:
 - Who Is Stuck!
 - This Happened To Me:
 - A Couple Of Winters Ago:
 - When A Lady Tried To Drive Her Truck:
 - Straight Through A Snowbank In Front Of Our House!
 - And As I Tried To:
 - Help Get Her Truck Free:
 - So She Could Head Back Home:
 - Where She Should Have Stayed To Begin With!
 - I Was Starting To Get:
 - Frustrated As Well!
 - Because It Seemed Like She Was Working Against Me Instead Of:
 - With Me!
- 3. Well We Were Finally Able To:
 - Get Things Figured Out:
 - And Off She Went!
 - But Sometimes I Wonder:
 - How Jesus Didn't Get Frustrated:
 - With His Disciples:
 - When They Seemed To Be "Stuck" In Their Faith & Relationship:
 - With Him!
 - Because As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 14 This Seems To Be:
 - Where The Disciples Are At:
 - When Jesus Speaks To Them:
 - In His Upper Room Discourse:
 - They Were Stuck!

- 4. They Were Stuck:
 - In Their Fears:
 - As They Felt The Darkness Of That Night:
 - Encroaching Upon What Was Supposed To Be:
 - A Special Time Of Fellowship:
 - Between Jesus & His Disciples!
 - So Jesus Confronted Their Fears:
 - When He Said In 14:1:
 - "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled! Believe In God! Believe In Me!"
 - But The Disciples Were Also Stuck:
 - In Their Faith:
 - That Was Still Quite Weak!
 - How Often Did Jesus Say To Them:
 - "O Ye Of Little Faith!"
 - So Jesus Wanted To Comfort Them:
 - And Increase Their Faith:
 - When He Told Them About His "Father's House!" And That:
 - He Was About To Go "To Prepare A Place" For Them!

- And From 14:3:
 - "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also!"
- But As Comforting As These Words:
 - Are To Us Now:
- The Disciples Were Still Stuck:
 - In Their Following:
 - Of The Lord And:
 - The Direction & Destination:
 - Of Path Of His Life!
 - And So Jesus Confirms:
 - What They Already Should Have Known!
 - That He Went On His Way:
 - So That He Could Become *Their* Way To God!
 - Because As He Said In:
 - 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!"
- 5. But It Is Clear That:
 - As Much As Jesus Tried To Help Them:
 - They Were Still Stuck!
 - Which Is Why As We Continue Through:
 - This "Discourse With The Disciples" Jesus Then:
 - "Critiques" His Disciples And How They Understood The Truths He Taught Them!
 - And So From 14:7-11 The Lord Continues:
 - "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. / Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. / Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? / Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. / Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake!"
- 6. Now When Jesus "Critiques" The Understanding:
 - Of His Disciples:
 - He Does So Not To:
 - "Criticize" Them In A:
 - Critical Way But In A:
 - Constructive Way!
 - Because Jesus Wanted Them:
 - To Grow! To Grow In:
 - Their Knowledge & Faith:
 - In The Lord!
 - How Often Has Someone:
 - Offered What They Say Is:
 - "Constructive Criticism" To You?
 - Either About What You Do:
 - Or Even What You Are Like!
 - All Too Often:
 - Its Heavier On The "Criticism" Side:
 - Than On The "Constructive" Side!
 - But That's Not The Case With Jesus!
- 7. Jesus Only Wanted *The Best:*
 - For His Disciples!
 - Both Then & Now!
 - So Whatever "Critique" Or "Constructive Criticism" He Offers:
 - It's For Your Best & Its For Your Growth!
 - He Does Not Want You To Stay "Stuck" Where You're At:
 - In Your Relationship & Walk With God!

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* And So - The First Thing That Jesus "Critiques" In These Verses Is:
        What We Really Know:
        - From Him - As His Disciples!
                - What We Really Know!
                         - Which Is Why In 14:7 - Jesus Says:
                                 - "If Ye Had Known Me, Ye Should Have Known My Father Also!"
                - Now - Back In 14:4:
                         - Jesus Tried To Reassure His Disciples:
                                 - By Confirming That:
        - They Did Know Something:
                 - About Him!
                         - "And Whither I Go Ye Know, And The Way Ye Know!"
                - Jesus Meant That:
                         - His Disciples Did Know Something About:
                                 - Where He Was Going - And Even:
                                          - They Way He Would Get There:
                                                  - Because He Already Told Them!
                         - And So - They Actually Knew:
                                 - More Than They Thought They Knew!
                - And - They Knew Enough:
                         - To Believe In Him:
                                 - And Be Saved!
                         - And - That Should Have Encouraged Them! And:
                                 - This Should Encourage Us As Well!
                - But Here - In 14:7:
                         - Jesus Wants Them To Also Realize That:
        - They Didn't Know Everything:
                - About Him!
                         - Though They Knew Enough:
                                 - To Believe In Jesus:
                                          - To Be Saved!
                         - It Is Clear That - They Did Not Know Enough:
                                 - Or Believe Enough:
                                          - To Be Secure In Their Own Hearts:
                                                  - About Their Salvation!
                         - Which Is Why:
                                 - Their Hearts Were Troubled!
                - And - To Emphasize This:
                         - John Even Uses A Different Word For:
                                 - "Know" In These Verses:
                                         - Then He Did In 14:4!
                - Jesus Meant That:
                         - His Disciples Didn't Really Know:
                                 - What He Wanted Them To Know And Understand:
                                          - About Both Him & His Father!
                                                  - At Least, Not Yet!
        - Because - One Of The Main Reasons Why:
                - Jesus Was Sent By His Father In Heaven:
                         - Was So That They & We:
                                 - Might Come To Really Know:
                                          - His Father In Heaven!
                         - IE: As An Introduction To Someone Special & Someone Important!
                - Not Only Did Jesus Want You:
                         - To Experience:
                                 - The Forgiveness Of His Father:
                                          - Through Faith In Jesus' Sacrifice On The Cross For Your Sin!
                - Jesus Also Wants You:
                         - To Experience & Enjoy:
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- The Friendship Of His Father:
 - As Well As:
- The Fellowship With His Father:
 - That Will One Day Even Be:
 - In His "Father's House!
- This Was Jesus' Greatest Desire!
 - That You Would Come To Know:
 - His Father:
 - By Knowing Him!
 - But They Were Stuck!
 - And They Hadn't Moved Or Grown:
 - In Their Knowledge!
 - Which Is Why Jesus Told Them:
 - 14:7 "If Ye Had Known Me, Ye Should Have & Would Have Known My Father Also!"
- But Then Unlike Some Of The:
 - "Constructive Criticism" That You Might Get From Others:
 - Jesus Then Offers Them Hope:
 - Even Through His Help!
 - Which Is Why He Adds Next In 14:7:
 - "And From Henceforth Or From Now On Ye Know Him!"
 - Or They Will Get To Know His Father As Their Father!
- Because Whatever They Were Missing:
 - Jesus Was Able To Provide!
 - This Was One Of The Reasons For:
 - This Entire "Upper Room Discourse!"
 - Any Depth Of Knowledge:
 - That They Lacked (And You Lack):
 - Jesus Would / Will Fill! And:
 - Any Desire For Knowledge:
 - That They Lacked (And You Lack):
 - Jesus Would / Will Flame!
- Do You Want To Know God?
 - Jesus Was & Still Is:
 - "The Way" To Know Him!
 - And So Only When You:
 - Really Know Jesus Can You:
 - Really Know God!
 - And Only When You:
 - Really Know God Will You Ever:
 - Be Able Grow In Your Walk With God!
 - But Still The Disciples Of Jesus:
 - Were Stuck In Their:
 - Knowledge Of Both Jesus & His Father! How About You?
- * So The Second Thing That Jesus "Critiques" In These Verses Is:
- 2. What We Really See:
 - In Him As His Disciples!
 - What We Really See!
 - Which Is Why At The End Of 14:7 Jesus Says:
 - "And Have Seen Him!"
 - So Not Only Does Jesus:
 - Try To Encourage His Disciples:
 - By Telling Them That:
 - They Will *Know* God!
 - He Also Tells Them That:
 - They Have Already Seen God!
 - Now This Piqued The Interest:

- Of Another One Of His Disciples:
 - This Time Philip!
 - And Philip Reveals:
- What He Truly Longed For:
 - In His Response To Jesus:
 - In 14:8 "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us!"
 - Now, Even Though We Meet Philip Only A Few Times:
 - In The Pages Of Scripture:
 - Philip Seems To Be A Very Devoted & Determined Disciple!
 - So When Jesus Says:
 - You Have Already Seen The Father:
 - Instead Of Expressing Doubt:
 - Like Thomas Did!
 - Philip Just Wants Jesus:
 - To Show Him The Father:
 - Again!
 - Because Perhaps When:
 - They Saw Him Before:
 - He Was In Some Kind Of:
 - Disguise!
 - Or Perhaps When:
 - They Saw Him Before:
 - They Were In Some Way:
 - Blind To Him!
 - And So Philip Expresses The Desire:
 - That Was Felt By Many:
 - Devoted & Determined Believers:
 - In The Past & Even Now!
 - Like The Desire Of Moses:
 - Who Said To God In:
 - Exodus 33:18 "I Beseech Thee, Shew Me Thy Glory!"
 - Or Like The Desire Of The Psalmist:
 - Of Psalm 42 Who Said:
 - "My Soul Thirsteth For God, For The Living God! When Shall I Come And Appear Before God?"
 - This Desire Was & Still Is A Good Desire!
 - To See God:
 - As He Is!
 - But Even Though What Philip Longed For:
 - Was Great! And Is What We:
 - Should Long For!
 - He Also Reveals:
- What He Truly Lacked:
 - When He Said To Jesus:
 - "And It Sufficeth Us!"
 - Or It Is Enough & All We Need!
 - Now The Natural Question Is:
 - Sufficient & Enough For What, Philip?
 - The "Enough" That Philip Is Talking About Seems To Be:
 - Enough For Everything!
 - Enough For His Fears / His Faith / His Following / And Even His Fathoming & Understanding Of God!
 - So All He Needed & All They Needed:
 - To Solve All The Problems:
 - That Jesus Was Dealing With:
 - Was Just A Glimpse Of God:
 - With Their Own Eyes!
 - "Lord, Shew Us The Father, And It Sufficeth Us!"

- But Would It Be Enough?
 Could It Be Enough?
- Was It Enough For Moses:
 - When God Made All Of His Goodness:
 - To Pass Before Him As He Stood In:
 - The "Cleft Of The Rock?" (Exodus 33)
 - No Because Even After:
 - This Vision Of God:
 - Moses Disobeyed The Word Of The Lord When He Struck The Rock Instead Of Speaking To It At Meribah! (Numbers 20)
- Was It Enough For The Children Of Israel:
 - When God Showed His Power & Glory:
 - At Mount Sinai To Give Them
 - His Law?
 - Or Even When The Elders Of Israel:
 - Were Given A Vision Of God:
 - When They Saw Him & "Under His Feet As It Were A Paved Work Of A Sapphire Stone, And As It Were The Body Of Heaven In His Clearness?" (Exodus 24:9-11)
 - No Because Within Just A Few Days Of:
 - This Vision Of God & His Glory:
 - They Worshiped A Golden Calf As The God Who Brought Them Out Of Egypt!
- Moses & The Children Of Israel & The Elders Of Israel:
 - Along With Philip & The Rest Of The Disciples:
 - As Well As You & Me:
 - Need Something More Than Just A Physical "Glimpse Of God" To Change Us & To Be Enough For Us!
 - We Need God To Be With Us:
 - And Even In Us If There Is To Be:
 - Any Hope For Us!
- What Philip Lacked:
 - Was An Understanding Of:
 - His Own Nature & Weakness!
 - And Even Though:
 - It Is Good & Right To Long To See:
 - A Vision Of God:
 - In All Of His Glory!
 - Even That Will Not Be Enough:
 - Until & Unless You See:
 - The Glory Of The Father In Person Of Jesus Christ!
- Which Is Why Jesus Then Asks Philip:
 - In 14:9 "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"
 - For Over Thirty Years:
 - Jesus Had Been In This World! And:
 - For Over Three Years:
 - Jesus Had Been With His Disciples:
 - And With Philip!
 - And For All That Time:
 - God The Father Revealed Himself:
 - Through Jesus!
 - Now When Jesus Says:
 - "He That Hath Seen Me Hath Seen The Father!"
 - He Is Not Saying That:
 - He & His Father Are:
 - The Same In Person!
 - Instead He Is Saying That:

- He & His Father Are:
 - The Same In Their Nature!
- And Their Resemblance:
 - To Each Other:
 - Is So Close That:
 - To See / Hear / Know The One Is To See / Hear / Know The Other!
- So Philip Did Not Need:
 - A Special Vision Of God The Father!
 - Because He Saw Jesus!
 - And Jesus Is Sufficient!
 - Jesus Is Enough!
 - So That You Can Really Know God!
- After All According To Hebrews 1:3:
 - Jesus Is The "Brightness Of (His Father's) Glory, And The Express Image Of His Person!"
- And According To Colossians 2:9:
 - In Jesus "Dwelleth All The Fulness Of The Godhead Bodily!"
- Do You Want To Know God & To See God?
 - Thinking That Just A Glimpse Of His Glory:
 - Would Be Enough?
 - To Calm Your Fears?
 - To Strengthen Your Faith?
 - To Enhance Your Fellowship?
 - To Keep You Faithful?
 - The Jesus That You Find:
 - In The Bible:
 - Is All The Vision Of God You Need To Fulfill All Of These Desires:
 - And Even More!
 - Because In 2 Corinthians 4:6:
 - We Are Told That "The Light Of Knowledge Of The Glory Of God" *IS* "In The Face Of Jesus Christ!"
- Only When You:
 - See God The Father *In* Jesus:
 - Will You Ever Be Able To:
 - Know God The Father & Jesus!
 - And When You:
 - See God & Know God:
 - In This Way:
 - You Will Grow!
- But Once Again:
 - Philip & The Disciples:
 - Like So Many Of Us:
 - Were Still Stuck & Stagnant:
 - In Our Spiritual Growth & Walk With God!
- * And So There's Just One More Thing That Jesus "Critiques" And That Is:
- 3. What We Really Believe:
 - About Him As His Disciples!
 - What We Really Believe!
 - Which Is Why In 14:10 Jesus Asks Again:
 - "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works!"
 - To Really Know The Lord And:
 - To Really See The Lord All Comes Down To:
 - Really Believing The Lord:
 - Doesn't It?
 - Because Faith Is The Fuel For Your Growth!
 - And So Jesus Wants Us:
 - To Examine Our Faith & Belief!

- Do You Believe That:
- He Is All The Vision Of God:
 - That You Need:
 - In Order To Grow?
 - "Believest Thou Not That I Am In The Father, And The Father In Me"
 - This Truth Reveals:
 - The Close Communion:
 - Between Jesus & His Father!
 - A Communion That Exists Nowhere Else Outside Of God!
 - And Even Though:
 - It's A Difficult Truth:
 - To Understand Because It Is The Very Basis Of The Doctrine Of The Trinity!
 - It Is Still A Truth:
 - That Can & Should Be Believed!
 - Because Whatever You Desire:
 - From God Can Be Found In:
 - And Received Through:
 - Jesus Christ!
 - Because They Are One!
 - They Are One In Every Way:
 - Except In Their Own:
 - Distinct Persons As Father & Son!
 - A Deeper Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - As The Vision Of God:
 - Is What You Need:
 - In Order To Get "Unstuck" In Your Life & Walk With God!
 - But At The Same Time:
- He Is All The Voice Of God:
 - That You Need To Hear:
 - In Order To Grow!
 - Since Jesus Also Says:
 - 14:10 "The Words That I Speak Unto You I Speak Not Of Myself!"
 - This Truth Reveals:
 - The Close Communication:
 - That Exists Between Jesus & His Father!
 - A Communication That Exists Nowhere Else Outside Of God!
 - This Does Not Mean That:
 - Jesus Just Mimics:
 - The Words Of His Father Or:
 - That His Father:
 - Just Dictated The Words He Wanted Him To Say!
 - It Means That Everything Jesus Ever Said:
 - He Said *From* His Father And:
 - He Said For His Father!
 - **IE:** Not Just Able To "Finish Each Others' Sentences" But Able To Speak The Words Of The Other! To Hear One Is To Hear The Other!
 - Jesus Is The Very:
 - "Word Of God" That John Told Us About In John 1:1:
 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!"
 - A Deeper Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - As The Voice Of God:
 - Is What You Also Need:
 - In Order To Get "Unstuck" In Your Life & Walk With God!
 - The Words Of Christ:
 - That Are In This Book:
 - Are The Words Of God!
 - And The Word Of Christ:

- That This Book Is:
 - Is The Word Of God!
- Listen To His Word!
 - Learn From His Word! And Then:
 - Live According To His Word!
 - But Even More:
- He Is The True Vitality Of God:
 - In This World:
 - Since In 14:10 Jesus Adds:
 - "But The Father That Dwelleth In Me, He Doeth The Works!"
 - This Truth Reveals:
 - The Close Connection:
 - Between The Word Of God And:
 - The Works Of God!
 - To The Point That:
 - God Works:
 - Through His Word!
 - This Can Be Seen In Creation!
 - "And God Said!"
 - God Works Through His Word!
 - This Can Be Seen In Salvation!
 - "Faith Cometh By Hearing, And Hearing, By The Word Of God!" (Romans 10:17)
 - God Works Through His Word!
 - This Can Be Seen In Sanctification!
 - "Sanctify Them Through Thy Truth! Thy Word Is Truth!" (John 17:17)
 - God Works Through His Word!
 - Do You Want To See God:
 - At Work In Your Life?
 - Then Keep Exposing Yourself:
 - To His Word!
 - Because A Deeper Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - As The Vitality Of God:
 - In All Of What He Says & Does:
 - Is What You Need:
 - To Get Growing Again As God's Child!
 - Only When You:
 - Believe That Jesus Is:
 - The Vision & Voice & Vitality Of God:
 - Will You Ever Be Able To:
 - See God The Father In Jesus!
 - But When You Do Believe & You Do See:
 - In This Way Then:
 - You Will Be Able To:
 - Really Know God:
 - And Grow!

Conclusion:

- And So Jesus Ends His:
 - "Critique" & "Constructive Criticism" By:
 - Calling On His Own Disciples:
 - One More Time:
 - To Just "Believe" Him!
 - 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake!"
- 2. Jesus Understands That:
 - Among His True Disciples:
 - There Are Different Levels Of Faith!
 - And That Is True:

- Even Here Today!
- But Whatever Kind Of Faith:
 - You Have Jesus Wants:
 - Your Faith In Him To Grow!
- Jesus Calls You Today To:
 - "Believe Me" And What I Say!
 - Even If Its Hard:
 - To Understand!
 - Even The Truth That:
 - "He Is In The Father, And The Father Is In Him!"
 - Because He Speaks:
 - Only The Words Of God!
 - When You Believe In & Trust In:
 - His Word You Are Ready:
 - To Grow!
 - But Even If You Struggle:
 - With His Words As Some Still Do!
- Jesus Calls On You To Just:
 - "Believe Me" Because Of What I Do!
 - He Does Only:
 - The Works Of God!
 - From Start To Finish!
 - And So Just Believe Him:
 - "For The Very Work's Sake!"
- 3. Because Only When:
 - As Believe The Lord:
 - Will You Be Able To See The Lord:
 - So That You Can Really Come:
 - To Know The Lord!
 - And Grow!

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