

"Speaking From the Heart"

By Pastor Bill Hayden

8/28/2024

It is incredible how we sit on the sidelines, watching how a game is being played. A team member may miss a catch, but they know what they should have done. Yet, in our frustration, we must tell them what they didn't do! We experts know how the game should be played, even if we have never played it!

There are always factors that are not obvious to a person who is not participating, but they still feel empowered to be critical of the ones who are and their performance. People who continually tend to display those characteristics seldom keep lasting friends. Sooner or later, the friend or friends become weary of their critical spirit and avoid them.

One evening, I watched a Warriors Basketball Game, and Steph Curry was missing baskets that he had been known to score. His teammates were laughing because they could identify with him. Some days, regardless of how hard you try to score, it doesn't happen. He never stopped trying to, and his teammates kept encouraging him. Eventually, he shook it off and began laughing at himself because he knew his focus was off.

Proverbs 15:2 ESV: *"The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly."*

It is easy to be critical when negativity surrounds you. Let us be people who understand and accept each other's humanity without being critical of one another. There will be days when you can't seem to make the perfect skills on the court of life. Beautiful things can be accomplished when we help each other by giving encouragement and appreciation. As I always say, "Things go better with praise." Make it your business daily to encourage and compliment someone with a kind word or two.

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club