

"**Criticism**" GK- *kritikos* = "able to discern or skilled in judging."

- **Criticism has two different meanings:**

- Speaking **fairly** with discernment in regard to merit or value
- Speaking **unfairly** with trivial or harsh judgments- unfair criticism by faultfinding

The Bible stresses the powerful impact of our right and wrong words. ...

"The tongue has the power of life and death. ..." -**Proverbs 18:21**

What Is the Root Cause of a Critical Spirit?

As Job is berated by his accusatory companions, he begins to develop a critical spirit toward God.

He accuses God of denying him justice and makes a daring proclamation: *"Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense — let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing. Surely I would wear it on my shoulder, I would put it on like a crown. I would give him an account of my every step; I would present it to him as to a ruler"* -**Job 31:35-37**

Self-centeredness and self-righteousness have surfaced in this man of God. the desire for self-sufficiency and self-will apart from God's will, the desire to take on God's role and to be in total control

The Bible warns and proclaims ...

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -**1 John 1:8-9**

- This is the essence of a critical spirit: assuming a superior role of faultfinding with a derogatory view of others.

For some with a critical spirit, putting others down creates a false sense of significance — a sense of power, a sense of pride — at least temporarily. For them the Bible warns ...

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." -**Proverbs 11:2**

3 God-Given Inner Needs

In reality, we have all been created with three God-given inner needs: the needs for love, significance, and security.

- **Love** — to **know** that someone is **unconditionally** committed to our **best interest**
"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" -**John 15:12**
- **Significance** — to **know** that our lives have **meaning** and **purpose**
"I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me" -**Psalms 57:2** ESV
- **Security** — to **feel accepted** and a sense of **belonging**
"Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge" -**Proverbs 14:26**
