

There are a lot of ways people deceive themselves. What about with our words? James 1:26

People who constantly \_\_\_\_\_ others do not realize the \_\_\_\_\_ they are doing.

**Three Root Causes of Destructive Criticism**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- Pilate recognized that the criticism against Jesus was motivated by jealousy and envy. Mark 15:10
- The Apostles were arrested because of jealousies towards them. Acts 5:17
- Jealousy and Envy can hurt others but also hurt the one who is jealous. Proverbs 14:30 (NLT)

Rejoice with the Blessed. Romans 12:15

**Next Step: This week I will ask myself, “Am I truly happy for the good things other people experience?” If not, I will allow Jesus to deal with my jealousy and envy.**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 6:45 Time for Reframing / One of Paul’s life goals was to go to Rome and preach the good news of Christ Jesus. But in a strange twist, Paul makes it to Rome (not as a preacher) but as a prisoner. Philippians 1:12-13 / Philippians 4:8

- Start \_\_\_\_\_ people on. 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 (The Message)

**Next Step: This week when I feel negativity, I will ask the Holy Spirit to help me see things “in a new light”. Reframing the situation.**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Cut Downs** The cut down is the most deceiving of all types of bad criticism. Ephesians 5:3-4 / Ephesians 4:29

**Why Is It So Important for Us to Stop Throwing Shade With Criticism?**

*Believers Church Mission Statement - To teach, encourage, and inspire Authentic Christianity to the people of Statesboro, Bulloch County, and Surrounding Areas*

**Bottom Line – Our mission is too \_\_\_\_\_ and our words too \_\_\_\_\_ to speak carelessly and risk \_\_\_\_\_ people.**

**The Umbrella of Criticism Must Come Down**

**What Are Our Words Costing Us?**

Could Cost You Your Kids. Could Cost You Your Spouse. Could Cost You Your Friendships. Could Cost You Your Church. Ephesians 4:30-31

**Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. Explain what James was trying to say in James 1:26. Can we be self-deceived about our words? Do you think people realize all the damage they are doing with their words?
2. What are The Three Root Causes of Destructive Criticism? Which of the three have you struggled with most?
3. What kind of damage have you seen done because of Jealousy and Envy? Because of Negativity? Because of Sarcastic Cut Downs?
4. In your own words explain Reframing.
5. Why do we have such a hard time cheering others on? How do you cheer on your spouse, children, friends, and church?
6. Why is it important for us not to throw shade with criticism?
7. What is the Mission Statement of Believers Church? Can we fulfill that mission as negative and critical people?

Answers: criticize – damage / Jealously – Envy / Negativity / cheering / Sarcastic / important – powerful - damaging