Far more often then we care to admit, outlook determines outcome. The way we look at a matter, the attitude that we choose, has direct bearing on how we experience reality.

~ James MacDonald
Criticism

Romans 12:10-13 (Amp)

10 Why do you criticize and pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you look down upon or despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 And so each of us shall give an account of himself [give an answer in reference to judgment] to God.

13 Then let us no more criticize and blame and pass judgment on one another, but rather decide and endeavor never to put a stumbling block or an obstacle or a hindrance in the way of a brother.
James 3:4-6 (New Living Translation)

4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.
- **Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)**
  19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy;

- **Proverbs 11:12 (NLT)**
  It is foolish to belittle one’s neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet.

- **Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT)**
  2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.
What is a Critical Attitude

- **Critical attitude** – *Dwelling on the perceived faults* of another without a view towards their good.

Let’s Discuss “Perceived Faults”

- Say it a Sentence:
  “A continuously critical attitude toward those around me will consume all that is healthy and joy-producing in my life”

- “When seeing a situation with someone else, could it be there are factors and circumstances I don’t understand?”

- One of the questions I need to ask is, “Is the problem with me?”

- “There has never been a statue erected to honor a critic. “

  ~ Zig Ziglar
Consequences of a Critical Attitude

- What are the *personal consequences* of a Critical Attitude and why do we choose criticism?
- Criticism Consequences:
  - Destroys our fellowship with others
  - A covering for a real heart issue
  - Has a blend of unforgiveness and bitterness.
  - Plugs the flow of God’s blessing
  - Can knock all of the confidence and power out of our lives.

- Criticism...
  - is Self exalting.
  - is Painful
  - is often inadvertent
  - is Wrong
  - is Petty
  - masks envy, jealousy or resentment
Choosing an Attitude of Love

How do we put on/choose the Attitude of Love?

Agape means a selfless love, giving love, you-before-me love. It describes love as an act of the will; a choice I make.

However, what we often mean when we say, “I Love You” is not, “I’ve made a commitment to place my needs above your own.”

- James MacDonald
Choosing an Attitude of Love

How do we put on/choose the Attitude of Love?

Philippians 2:3-5,

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility decide that others are better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.
Choosing an Attitude of Love

- How do we put on/choose the Attitude of Love?

1 Corinthians 13:5

Love chooses not be rude. It does not demand its own way. It chooses not to be irritable, and it chooses to keep no record of being wronged.

Proverbs 19:11

Sensible people control their temper; they earn glory by overlooking an offence.
Small Group Discussion

- How can we recognize and short circuit our critical attitude?

What Practices, Tools or Ideas will help?