**SPEAK LIFE - Speaking Words that Heal, not Hurt**

“Corrosive Talk - Complaining & Criticizing”

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Philippians 2:14-15

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**Introduction:**

A. I have chosen to call complaining and criticizing “corrosive talk” because we all understand the way ______ works.
   1. Corrosive words ______ our spiritual life and our relationships.

B. All we have to do to destroy our relationship with God and with others, and destroy our life in general, is to give ourselves over to ___________ and ___________.

C. Corrosive speech has a variety of ________.

**I. What the Bible Says**

A. The Bible is clear that this kind of talk is not to be coming from the mouths of God’s people (Phil. 2:14-15; Proverbs 21:9, 19; 22:10; 26:21; 27:15; 1 Tim. 3:3).

B. Nowhere in Scripture is complaining and criticizing more graphically depicted than in the case of the __________ of __________ (Numbers 13-14).

C. Complaining and criticizing:
   1. Ignores ______ _________.
   2. Leads to wrong __________ and bad ____________.
   3. Leads to ___________.
   4. Leads to ________.
   5. Breeds ____________.
   6. Results in God’s _____________.

**II. How to Stop Complaining and Criticizing**

A. Be ___________.
   1. We need to make sure our __________ are in line with what is realistic.

B. Be ___________ (1 Thess. 5:18).
   1. The main cause of complaining and criticizing is a focusing on the _____________.
   2. Just as we can always find something to complain about or be critical of, so can we always find something for which to be _________.
   3. Spiritual __________ causes us to forget God’s presence, deliverance and provision and leads to corrosive speech.

C. Be ___________.
   1. Rather than speaking words of complaint and criticism, we need to speak with __________ expectation.

D. Be ____________.
   1. The easiest thing in the world is to complain and criticize, but God calls us to be ____________.
   2. When we don’t complain and criticize like others, then people take ________ that there is something different about us.
   3. In order for us to be different, we are going to have to do two things:
      a. __________ First
      b. __________ Less

**Answer Key:**