

The Words of our Mouths

Words are a means of communication.

Whether we communicate knowledge or feelings words can be used.

Words can be used to bind us or to free us; to bind others or to free others; to edify or to break down.

A common saying: “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never harm me.”

This saying is NOT true.

WORDS OFTEN HARM MORE THAN STICKS AND STONES AND THE WOUNDS TAKE LONGER TO HEAL.

- In creation God said “Let there be...” and there was. Genesis 1
- Lucifer fell from heaven because the words from his heart were evil “You have said in your heart, I will...” Isaiah 14: 12f
- The woman was deceived because of the serpent's deceptive words “Did God really say...” Genesis 3: 1
- Man accused woman and woman accused the serpent with words. Genesis 3: 11 – 13
- The first sinful acts after the act of disobedience were with words.

Galatians 5: 15 “If you keep biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

Proverbs 10: 19 “When words are many sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

Matthew 12: 33 – 37

- Good and bad fruit
- Overflow of heart – the mouth speaks
- Good man brings things out of good in him
- Evil man brings evil out of evil in him
- Give account of careless words
- By your words you will be acquitted
- By words be condemned

Romans 10: 8 – 10 “Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart.”

Ephesians 4: 25 – 5: 6; 19 – 20

1) Speak truthfully – put off falsehood (vs 25)

- Oaths: Do not swear... - Let your yes be yes and your no be no (Matthew 5: 33 – 37)
- ...and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake Revelation 21: 8

2) In your anger do not sin (vs 26 – 27)

- James 1: 19 – 20 “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry.”
- James 1: 26 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

3) Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths

- Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (v.31)
- Nor should their be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking which are out of place (5: 4)
- Proverbs 8: 13 “To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.

3 Consequences of unwholesome talk:

- a) Destroys relationships
- b) Grieves the Holy Spirit (v.30)
- c) Incurs God's wrath (5: 6)

4) [Speak] only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (v.29)

- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (v.32)
- Be imitators of God ... live a life of love (5: 1,2)
- 1 Peter 2: 23 “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered he made no threats. Instead he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”
- 1 Timothy 4: 12 “Set an example in speech...”
- Speak to one another with Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord. (v.19)
- Thanksgiving (5:4, 20)

Concluding Attitude

Psalm 17: 3 “Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.”

Psalm 19: 14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”