



LOVING WITH YOUR WORDS

“Everything was OK until (he, she, I) said...”

James & Jesus have much to teach us

James 3:2

(New King James) For we all stumble in many things.

If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

(The Message) And none of us is perfectly qualified.

We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths.

If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

- My mouth will direct _____ where I go. (James 3:3-4)
 - Like a bridle on a horse
 - Like a rudder on a ship
- My mouth can destroy _____ what I have. (3:5-8)
 - Like a fire in a forest
 - Like poison to a body
- My mouth displays _____ who I really am. (3:9-12)
 - Jesus said: “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” **Matthew 12:33-36**
 - Jesus said: “You are defiled by what comes from your heart.” **Mark 7:14-15**

Paul gives believers some practical advice

Ephesians 4:21-27, 29

- Love people with honest _____ words
4:25 - *Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.*
 - Integrity of the heart _____ comes alive in the words we speak.
 - People need to be able to count on our word _____

“But I don’t want to hurt others with the truth!”

- If you want to impact lives, you have to be lovingly _____ honest _____
- God’s Answer: “...speaking the truth in love...” 4:15
- It takes truth _____ AND love _____
- Honest words begin with being honest about yourself _____ - Jesus said in Matthew 7...

³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. (NLT)

- Love people with careful _____ words
4:26-27 - “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.
 - Communication while you are angry can be like a battlefield _____
 - God commands _____ that we not go to sleep angry.
 - Disobedience to this command gives the devil a foothold to destroy _____ relationships.
- Love people with edifying _____ words
4:29 - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*
 - Words will either build _____ or tear down _____ (Marriage, children, friendships, relationships)
 - We must all learn to THINK _____ before we speak!
 - T – Is it truthful _____ ?
 - H – Is it helpful _____ ?
 - I – Is it inspirational _____ ?
 - N – Is it necessary _____ ?
 - K – Is it kind _____ ?

Solomon also had some wisdom to share

Proverbs 10:19, 12:18 & 25, 13:3, 15:1, 16:21 & 28, 17:28, 21:23, 24:26, 27:5

The Investment of our Words



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