

COMMUNICATION – PART 2

LESSON 11



M.I.P.

Session 11 – **Most Important Point**

DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE . . .

Prov 18:21

There is no part of your body that has power equal to your tongue! The power of your tongue can strengthen and heal your marriage, or it can slowly, methodically destroy your marriage.



FACT . . .

It is the way a person speaks to us that either draws us to them or repels us from them. If you anticipate words of blessing, you are drawn to that person. If you anticipate words of bitterness, you will often find ways to avoid that person.

Jas 3:2-4

“² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man [mature], able also to bridle the whole body.

³ Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.”

 **CONSIDER THE EXXON VALDEZ**

In 1989, the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska. The pilot of the ship was careless with its tongue, and 11 million gallons of destruction and devastation was spilled over 1,300 miles of some of the most beautiful coastline in the world.

Unbelievable pollution and damage, all caused by the uncontrolled tongue of one ship. This might well describe some of our marriages.

The Captain of the Exxon Valdez tried to excuse himself from that devastation saying, “*I was just careless,*” but that Captain went to prison for the damage his ship’s tongue caused. And how he wishes he could take back his carelessness.

We have the exact same risk in our marriages if we do not crucify the deadly power of our tongue.

Jas 3:5-6

“⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

“What James is saying is that the tongue can kindle a destructive fire which can destroy all life; and the tongue itself is kindled with the very fire of hell. Here indeed is its terror.” – **William Barclay**

Jas 3:7-8

“⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

Your tongue cannot be tamed because it is rooted in your sin nature. . .



So you have 1 of 2 choices:

- 1 Crucify the sin nature of your tongue, or
- 2 Allow it to damage all life in your marriage.

OUR TONGUE HAS BOTH THE POWER TO BLESS AND THE POWER TO CURSE.

Jas 3:9-12

“⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.”

How big a deal is it ?

Jas 1:26

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.”

An unbridled tongue equals a deceived heart, and a useless religion.
A transformed tongue equals a transformed heart.

Pro 25.11

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.”

Pro 16:24

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”

Pro 12.18

“. . . the tongue of the wise promotes health.”

If your words are bringing life and health to your marriage, you can know your heart is right before God. **If not . . . then . . . not.**

TRANSFORMED COMMUNICATION

The Put-Off, Put-On theology of being transformed.

Eph 4:17-19

“¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;”

Most Christians who are doing damage with their tongues are blind (like unbelievers) to the sinful condition of their heart.

Eph 4:19-22

¹⁹ *who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

²⁰ *But you have not so learned Christ,*

²¹ *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

²² *that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,"*

²³ *and **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind,"*

²⁴ *and that you **put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

To **put off** is to crucify the old man (Rom 12:1)

To **be renewed** is be transformed (Rom 12:1)

To **put on** is to live in the nature of Christ (Gal 2:20)



And then, right away, in the next verse, Paul goes into the evidence of this transformation.

And the first thing he addresses is our communication. . .

Eph 4:25-27

²⁵ *Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.*

²⁶ *Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*

²⁷ *nor give place to the devil."*

We dealt with these truths last lesson:

- 1 Speak the truth in love
- 2 Do not let the sun go down on your anger



Skip to verse 29 . . .

“²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification.”

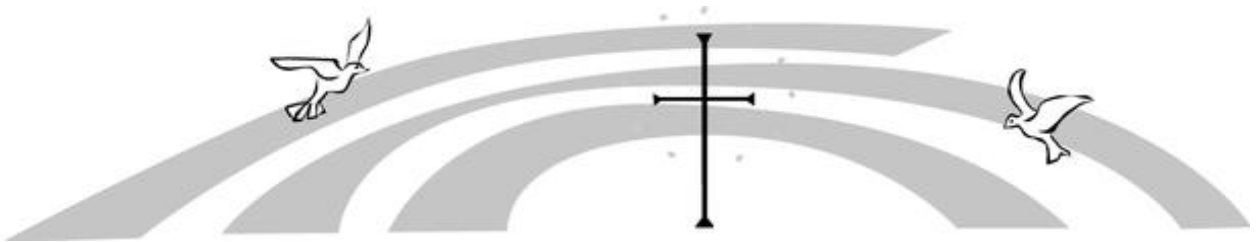
Corrupt = foul or putrid words.

Edification = to build up or strengthen.

How often do we ask ourselves; “*What does my spouse most need to hear right now? How can my spouse be edified, built up, strengthened?*”

But what if they don’t deserve to be built up? How can we speak only what is good for necessary edification? The answer is . . .

BY IMPARTING GRACE. . .



1Pet 3:8-9

*“⁸ . . . be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ **not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.**”*

Grace is giving your spouse what they DO NOT deserve.

Literally, it means unmerited favor. It’s exactly what God has given you.

Jesus Christ died to give you God’s undeserved grace, and now you must die to your self to give your spouse undeserved grace.

This goes against our sin nature. And it is exactly what we are called to do.

When you have a right to be angry – instead be forgiving.
When you have a right to be offended – instead give mercy.
When you have a right to be unloving – instead give love.

That is imparting grace, giving your spouse what they do not deserve.

Continuing in our context - Ephesians 4:31

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.”

Communication definitions from verse 31:

Bitterness – A bitter root, which produces a bitter fruit

Wrath – Outbursts of anger

Anger – Anger exhibited in punishment

Clamor – A verbal brawl

Evil Speaking – To injure by speech

Malice – A desire to injure



These are the sins of your heart - that come out of your mouth.

God is able to forgive you and to heal you of them . . .

If you will come to Him in repentance:

- 1 Presenting the totality of your self to be consumed by Him,
- 2 To be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
- 3 In order to put on the new nature of Christ.

And how will you know when that has happened ?



When you are living out the next verse in Eph 4:

“³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

- When you are kind to your spouse when they don't deserve it.
- When you are tender-hearted when they are hard-hearted.
- When you forgive them just as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Then you have been truly transformed by the Spirit of the Living God!
And it really can happen in each of our marriages.

Response Time . . .

From 0% to 100% – what percentage of the time do you feel **you** are blessing and edifying your spouse in your communication? _____%

From 0% to 100% – what percentage of the time do you feel **your spouse** is blessing and edifying you in their communication? _____%

Please compare your answers with your spouse . . .

Do you need to be transformed in your communication with your spouse? _____

Let's Pray: *"Dear Lord Jesus, I know that my tongue is a fire. I surrender it to You to be crucified. Please forgive me of sins of the tongue. Please heal me, please transform me, please give me your new nature, that I would be transformed into your image by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen."*

REVIEW

Be Transformed in your communication:

- 1 Begin by crucifying your self and dealing with sin in our own heart,
- 2 Then renew your mind by the power of the Holy Spirit,
- 3 Then put on the new nature of Christ in your communication.

COMMUNICATION VERSES

2Tim 2:23

" . . . avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."

Prov 18.6-7

⁶ A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows.

⁷ A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul."

Prov 17.14

"The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts."

Prov 15:1

*"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."
[repeat]*

Psa 34:12-14

¹² Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good?

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

DAVE'S FAVORITES

- Communication is a matter of **YOUR** heart – make it right before God.
- Bitterness, anger and unforgiveness are **sins** – deal with them as such.
- When you're wrong, **admit it** – confess, repent, and ask forgiveness.
- Institute daily **couch time** – 15 minutes a day of real communicating.
- **Pray** for one another sometime during every difficult conversation. The closer it gets to an argument, the more critical immediate prayer is.

RECOMMENDED READING

A Marriage Without Regrets – Kay Arthur
Two Becoming One – Don and Sally Meredith
The Five Love Languages – Gary Smalley