



## God's Response to Sins of the Mouth

Gossip/ Slander/ Lies

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

United Community Church

Pastor Ron Burks, 7/29/18

Negative words: Inflammatory words, hurtful words, slanderous words, filthy words

“Many things are opened by mistake, but none so frequent as one’s mouth” ~ Unknown

Not all speech is sinful. The Bible identifies specific uses of the tongue as sinful: unwholesome word (Eph 4:29), deceitful mouth/devious speech (Pro 4:24), filthy silly talk (Eph 5:4), insult for insult (1 Pet 3:9-10), cursing (Psa 10:7, Rom 3:13-14)

Gossip – “one who reveals secrets”. The intent is to build oneself up by making others look bad (Pro 11:23, Pro 16:28, Pro 26:20, 1 Tim 5:13)

Slander – “an accuser who intends to harm others” (Pro 10:18, 1 Cor 4:13, Lists of sins - Mk 7:22, Rom 1:30, 2 Cor 12:20, Eph 4:31, Col 3:8, 2 Tim 3:3)

Lying – intentional violation of truth or telling a lie as truth (Jn 8:44, Rom 1:24-25, 1 Jn 2:21-22)

### QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU SPEAK (Eph 4:19-5:2)

1. Does it build others up?
2. Does it offer grace to the hearer?
3. Will it grieve the Holy Spirit?
4. Is it kind and compassionate?
5. Does it show forgiveness?
6. Does it imitate God?
7. Is it spoken in love?

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. How have your words impacted the people around you this week? At work, at home, on social media?
2. Will you make a commitment this week to “guard your words” by asking seven simple questions before you speak?