



COVENANT CHURCH

Adulting: Learning How to Grow Up

Part 3 - Speaking

Pastor Ricky Texada

Sunday June 21, 2020

Main Idea – A mature Christian speaks in a way that is consistent with God’s character. The Bible tells us to speak only after thinking; to speak words that encourage, reconcile, and bless.

Christian maturity

- Christian adulthood involves thinking, believing, speaking, and acting in a mature, Biblically-inspired way.
- When it comes to the words you speak, the Bible tells you how you should talk. **1 Corinthians 13:11 - When I was a child, I spoke about childish matters, for I saw things like a child and reasoned like a child. But the day came when I matured, and I set aside my childish ways. (TPT)**

Your words create consequences; nothing happens unless something is first said

- Spoken words come with a cost. There are consequences from what you say.
- **Genesis Chapter 1** describes the Creation, and how everything was created through God’s spoken words. **(see verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, and 26)**
- Nothing would exist if God had not first said something.

Words have creative power

- Things are both created and destroyed by the words you speak.
- **Proverbs 18:21 – Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit – you choose. (Message)**
- **Proverbs 15:4 – Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim. (Message)**

What we say can’t be separated from who we are and what we become

- Jesus used a metaphor that likened you to a fruit tree. The fruit that comes out of you indicates the kind of fruit tree you are.
- Your words are fruit that indicate the kind of person you are. Your words reveal what is going on inside you; what is going on in your heart.
- **Matthew 12:33-37 – “A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. You brood of snakes! How could evil men**

like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.” (NLT)

- Colossians 4:6 – Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. (NLT)

As needed, start making changes in your speech right now.

- Colossians 3:8-11 – But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn’t matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. (NLT)
- Begin controlling your speech by eliminating dirty language and lying. If you speak those things it is an indication something inside you is wrong.
- Your words – like God’s creative words in **Genesis 1** – will establish your nature and character.
- James 3:2-6 – Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. (NLT)
- Turn to Jesus. Turn your attention to His nature. Begin transforming yourself into His likeness (become more like Him).
- Make sure your heart has settled a matter before talking. Let the Holy Spirit guide you each step of the way in this process.
- Protect the good seeds that are sown in your heart so that your words will have the correct effect on people.

What the Bible teaches about how you are to speak

1. **Speak slowly and deliberately.** Listen and think before talking. Do not speak if your

emotions are not under your control.

James 1:19-20 –

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

Proverbs 17: 27-28 – A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent. (NLT)

2. Speak wholesome words that encourage.

Ephesians 4:29 –

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (NLT)

3. Speak words of reconciliation.

2

Corinthians 5:20 – So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us; we (as Christ's representatives) plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. (Amplified)

1. Solutions come from personal relationships.
 2. Relationships develop within a culture.
 3. Churches have the responsibility to create internal cultures that unite believers so they can serve as God's reconcilers in society.
4. Speak words that bless. You have the power to do this through the Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (NKJV)
James 3:8-10 – but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! (NLT)

Receive the blessing God has spoken, and is therefore available to you

- Genesis 12:2-3 – “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
- Numbers 6: 24-26 – “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Reflective Questions for Adulthood – Part 3

1. Think of someone in your circle of acquaintances who is genuinely encouraging with his or her words. What are the types of things this person says? What is it that makes him or her genuine, instead of superficial?
2. The Bible tells us to choose our words carefully before speaking. Have you learned a personal technique that helps you control your words? How successful are you at using it?
3. Pastor Ricky showed where the Bible teaches your words should serve to encourage, reconcile, and bless. To what extent is it necessary to first receive God's blessing before being able to pass it on to others? (see Genesis 12:2-3 and Numbers 6:24-26 above.)