

We need to understand how powerful words are. God Himself spoke the universe into existence:

(Genesis 1) "Let there be light," and there was light.

(Psalm 33:6) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.

And Jesus is called The eternal Word that became flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1**).

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. **NASB 1995**

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1. unwholesome is from the Greek word *Sapros* meaning = rotten, putrefied of poor quality, bad, worthless or unfit for use.

Unwholesome words include:

- Gossip and slander: Spreading rumors, backbiting, character assassination
- Harsh criticism and sarcasm: Words that belittle, mock, or humiliate... often hide venom.
- Lying and deception: Twisting the truth for personal gain.
- Complaining and negativity: Constant grumbling discouraging words, negative criticism (destructive by nature) these all poison the atmosphere.
- Angry outbursts: Explosive words that wound in the heat of the moment.

2. Husbands:

- There are absolutes in marriage: as a husband never make your wife the butt of the joke, she is the bride of your youth, she is Gods daughter.
 - Conversation becomes a ministry tool, **Proverbs 25:11** "a word spoken at the right time" that is "like apples of gold in settings of silver", we are to wash our wife in the word of God daily, and with kindness.
- a) Part of the curse in **Genesis 3:16** when God was speaking to Eve, He told her: Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you.

Matthew 15:18 is clear: those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

- Men, your spouse is not the enemy, not when you are arguing, not when you are parenting, not when they are excited and yelling, your spouse is not the enemy.

3. Wives:

- husbands don't know what you are thinking.
- busy searching for the logical solution to your problem when you're talking to us.
- Another part to the curse in **Genesis 3:16** when God was speaking to Eve, He said to her: Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you.

- In marriage, a couple being, 1 male and 1 female as one flesh—are united in purpose and reflect the complete attributes of God. This bond means that even when apart, not involved in the same activities or even together in the same physical location you still affect and impact one another. You are a family.

Proverbs 15:1 tells us A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

- Wives, remember your spouse is not the enemy, not when you are arguing, not when you are parenting, not when they are angry and yelling, your spouse is not the enemy.

4. Now if children are brought into your family, the parents responsibility is to raise the children.

- The Bible serves as a profound instruction guide given by God for raising our children.

Deu 6:6-9 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Psalms 78:4-7 We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know *them*, The children *who* would be born, *That* they may arise and declare *them* to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments

1Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

- The Bible is written in a way to make us look at ourselves in all areas of life: parenting, marriage, all of our relationships. This is why I appreciate the Self-Confrontation class; it reveals biblical truths and helps us understand how God intended us to live through His word.

Proverbs 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

- Parents, remember your child is not the enemy, not when you are arguing, not when you are parenting, not when they are teenagers and yelling, your child is not the enemy.

5.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. NASB 1995

- The word translated for edification is oy-kod-om-ay and it = (the act of) building up, one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, virtue, integrity, joy or holiness.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1. how edification coupled with According to the need of the moment work together:

Matthew 26:73-74 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!"

- Our speech should betray every one of us as followers of Christ.
- Not portray us as a non-believer

James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

We need to remember there are 2 sides to every story:

Proverbs 18:17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him

- According to the need of the moment = you need to get and understand both sides of the story before saying something that may call another person's character into question.
- Before speaking ask yourself:
 - Will I shame myself?
 - Will this hurt my witness?
 - Will this be displeasing to God?
 - o If you answer YES to any of these questions, pray for the correct timing, and keep your mouth shut.
- Ask yourself, will this shame the person receiving the message unreasonably?
 - Somethings have to be said that will bring shame to someone, because of their actions, but we need to be aware of our surroundings and ask:
 - o Should it be said in front of a child,
 - o Is it appropriate to say in mixed company,
 - o Should this be said in front of others?

- If you can answer No to any of these questions again pray for the correct timing, and keep your mouth shut.

d) When you confront someone, it should point them to Christ.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful

- A good friend tells us the truth;
- a real friend tells us the truth when it's uncomfortable or is going hurt.
- Rebuke as used in the Bible, is not just criticism; it serves as a tool for correction that encourages repentance, promotes accountability, upholds righteousness, and encourages relationship.
- Rebuke is rooted in love and is aimed at correction rather than punishment.

e) As a Christian we are called to confront other Christians in love, not to ignore situations that will harm the body of Christ, **Ephesians 4:27** tells us to give no opportunity to the devil.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

- We are all called to help restore our brothers' and sisters' relationships with God and with us, by addressing difficult issues, not allowing obvious sin to continue. This means confronting our fellow believers with the truth, as that is the essence of biblical love.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. NASB 1995

1. So that it will give grace to those who hear = to attend to, consider what is or has been said / perceive the sense of what is said, to understand.
 - a) We can listen or we can hear.
 - We hear things all day long, it's basically background noise we don't listen to.
 - b) So that it will give grace to those who hear also serves as a warning.
 - To be aware of our surroundings, know who is listening to what is being said, will you be overheard.
 - This is part of being the right time. The people who will be affected by what is being said need to hear directly from the source that has both sides of the story, all the information, NOT SECONDHAND snippets.

What most of us consider gossip is actually Slander, a form of gossip. It's defined as spreading rumors or lies about a person to cause damage purposely. If you put it in writing it's called libel.

1. What gossip is:

- Sharing “juicy info = you learned about someone, not always bad just info that is not for you to share.
- Planting Seeds = make others question or assume something about the character of another person.
- Whispered Innuendo = Subtle insinuations that mislead others about the character of others.
- Not-Really-Joking joke = taking some part of truth about someone and turned it into a joke that makes others question their character.
- Backbiting = involves speaking spiteful or slanderous words about someone who is not present and can do nothing in defense.
- Rumors = You hear something, not good or confirmed about someone, and repeat it.

Matthew 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

2. A lot of Christians struggle with understanding what gossip isn't.

Sharing firsthand knowledge with someone who lacks essential information for making an informed decision is not gossip. It is an act of biblical love.

It starts with self-examination. Ensure that you're not being overly critical, discouraging, acting out of anger or vengeance.

Ephesians 4:29 instructs us, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up (edifying) according to the need of the moment." Your words should be said in love and with grace. If your message isn't motivated by love and compassion, it is better to remain silent.

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head Christ

Is what I am about to say going to:

- Contribute toward the development of godly traits?
- Will it help to accomplish biblical responsibility?
- Am I controlled by it in any way?
- Is this an area of spiritual weakness (a stumbling block) in my life?
- Could this lead another believer in Christ to stumble?
- Does this edify (build up) others?
- Is this the biblically loving thing to do?
- Does this glorify God?

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.