

7-13-2025, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Do I Say to Others, pt-2

Purpose: Provoke people to speak to other people with Biblically guided speech.

Truth for Today: If our words are guided by Biblical principles, our relationships with people will be better.

Text: Colossians 4:5-6

Topic: Words, Sharing, Courtesy, Respect, Arguments, Correction, Encouragement

Sermon series: You Said WHAT?

Series purpose: Provoke people to talk to God, themselves, others and the devil in a Biblical way

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I. Introduction

- A. Review series: You Said WHAT? [Pr.18:21 (ESV)] **Death and life are in the power of the tongue.**] Premise: Life will be better if we say the right things and stop saying the wrong things. We've spent several weeks talking about the words we say to God and what we think and say to ourselves, self-talk. Last time we talked about words we say to others, specifically to family and those we care deeply about: I love you, I'm proud of you, forgive me/ I forgive you, I believe in you.
- B. Today we'll continue talking about what we say to other people. This will be very broad including friends, strangers, co-workers, team and class members, neighbors, etc. I.e. Biblical principles to apply in what we say to people in general.
- C. Title: What Do I Say to Others, pt-2

II. A Biblical principle for how God wants us to speak to people

- A. [Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT)] Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ **Let your conversation (ESV speech) be gracious and attractive (ESV seasoned with salt; NCV kind and pleasant)** so that you will have the **right response for everyone.**] The context is how we speak to unbelievers, but the application is broader toward all people we talk to.
 - 1. Let your speech be gracious Def. gracious: It's from the root word, 'grace', and refers to words that produce joy, favor, acceptance, thanks and gratitude in the hearer. Gracious words express the loving kindness of God.¹ E.g., a compliment to a waiter, advice for a co-worker, affirming someone's success...
 - 2. Let your speech be attractive seasoned with salt; kind and pleasant. It's saying the right thing the right way. It's the words of truth we say that are made attractive by how we say them. Def. *attractive and seasoned with salt*: It means Christians speak Biblical truth in an appealing way.¹ This doesn't imply we're always 'nice and unoffensive'. Just as salt stings but heals a wound, words of Biblical truth sting/ convict the sinner of sin and guide them to truth. E.g. porn office joke: contrast self-righteousness vs 'speaking the truth in love'.
 - 3. Summary: Christians speak with grace to encourage people and [Eph. 4:15 (NLT)] we will **speak the truth in love...**] to confront wrongdoing.

III. Words that express sharing, courtesy and respect embody Biblical values

- A. Sharing: ‘asking someone’ if they need something and then being generous and meeting the need. **e.g.** LaNell water bottle on a vacation hike. [Pr. 22:9 (NLT) **Blessed are those who are generous**, because they **feed the poor**.] I.e. people in need. We often don’t know what’s needed until we use words to ask. It may be helping someone load groceries, change a tire, pay a bill, babysit the kids, etc.
 - B. Courtesy (being polite): Jesus to Simon, [Luke 7:46 (NLT) **You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head**, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.] This was an act of hospitality in their culture, not spiritual. Modern culture get hit, **joke** unless it’s \$25 hair crème and lotion.
 1. One way we express courtesy is to use the words, ‘please, thank you and you’re welcome.’ **E.g.** at home, work, strangers, on the phone, etc. Courtesy opens the door for a Christian witness because we treat people in a kind, loving way.
 - C. Expressing respect for age and stature in life. [Lev. 19:32 (NCV) **‘Show respect to old people; stand up in their presence...’**] Another way we can show respect for older people and people deserving respect is by saying ‘yes sir, and no mam’. **E.g.** teacher at school or a revered position like a judge. We can open the door for an older person or load their groceries and offer to pray for them.
- IV. What do we say when we have arguments or fights.
- A. No-No’s [Col. 3:8–13 (NLT) But now is the time to **get rid of** anger, rage, malicious behavior, **slander**, and **dirty language**.] Feelings, actions and words tied together. When we get mad, we see how sanctified we really are. **E.g.** What comes out of our mouth when someone breaks something, forgets to shut the window in rain, etc. If we explode, yell, cuss or demean someone our Christian witness goes out the window.
 1. When we’re in the heat of the moment and the flesh is about to take over it’s a good idea to walk away and ask the Holy Spirit to help us regain self-control.
 - B. Yes-Yes’s [Matthew 18:15 (NLT) “If another believer sins against you, **go privately and point out the offense**. (*i.e. talk to the person*) If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.] This applies to unbelievers, too. Jesus said when someone does us wrong, go to the person, don’t gossip, slander, talk behind their back or seek revenge. Talk to them with grace and use a little salty truth.
 1. [Proverbs 15:1 (ESV) **A soft answer turns away wrath**, but a **harsh word** stirs up anger.] **E.g.**, Don
- V. Help people get back on track by words of correction...this requires tact and humility
- A. [Galatians 6:1 (NLT)...if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should **gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path**.] We do this by caring enough to reach out and talk to them showing the love of God and speaking the truth of God’s Word.
 - B. [Proverbs 17:10 (NLT) **A single rebuke** does more for a person of understanding than a hundred lashes on the back of a fool. Proverbs 10:17 (NLT) People who **accept discipline** are on the pathway to life, but those who **ignore correction** will go astray.]
 1. We might be surprised how the Holy Spirit can make people receptive to correction and use us to keep them from falling off the cliff.

VI. We can encourage and comfort people with words of Scripture

- A. [Psalm 119:28 (NLT) **I weep with sorrow; encourage me by your word.**] Tavia Hunt, the wife of the owner of the K.C. Chiefs had a cousin of her daughter die in the Camp Mystic flood. FB post: "The Psalms are full of raw cries from people who feel abandoned, confused, and heartbroken (Psalm 13, Psalm 22, Psalm 42). Yet even in the groaning, they direct their grief toward God. That's the first act of trust: bringing Him our brokenness, not hiding it. ["The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18] So when your heart breaks, you're not alone. You're with a Savior who knows and still holds you."² How do you think people felt when they heard or read this?

1. [Ps 119:114 (NLT) You are my refuge and my shield; **your word is my source of hope.**] God's Word can comfort the brokenhearted, give answers to the searching, and hope to the hopeless. That's why we need to speak God's Word to the hurting

VII. Conclusion: Say "God bless you; have a great day" to everyone you can

- A. Truth in reverse. [Ps. 129:5-8 (NLT) May all who **hate Jerusalem** be turned back in shameful defeat...⁸ And **may those who pass by refuse to give them this blessing: "The LORD bless you; we bless you in the LORD's name."**] They lived in a Biblical culture where a normal greeting or parting phrase was, 'God bless you'.

1. To bless means to invoke God's favor, to ask God to do them good, to be kind to them, to heal and prosper them, etc. Making a habit of telling people, 'God bless you', may open a door to God in their life. E.g.

VIII. Response

- A. Prayer: Lord, I want my words to be gracious and attractive, seasoned with the salt of truth and be kind and pleasant.] Lord, help me stop saying the wrong things and start saying the right things to people.

B. Souls

IX. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Zodhiates, S. (2000). In [*The complete word study dictionary: New Testament*](#) (electronic ed.).
2. https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10160850618066580&set=pcb.10160850618191580&__cft__%5B0%5D=A_ZWTCwxPG3feKBdsFilCwu6SKjN-HJO4ZEQoW9iuBvIEpdpljv_XJY-4usKuRbAcB0DoP0XIak62PVq3ExZW0nyyht5ESV_epMLt8wkWzJWYD5NGbsRVs0Ae3dLTJIo7lNCaE29rTT06yb9n0X8A9gkua7GFqMMuPFPbSjG5v9HUA&__tn__=*b3H-R

X. Supplemental Material

- A. Our motivation; sometimes it's hard. Text for loving other people: [Mt. 22:36-39 (NLT) "Teacher, which is the most important commandment, 37 Jesus replied, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, 39 **A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor (MSG others) as yourself.'** Galatians 5:14 (NLT)

- For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Neighbor is a broad term that applies to all people.
- B. A general rule that determines what we do and what we say. Matthew 7:12 (NLT) “**Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.** This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.
 - C. Pr. 11:25 (NLT) The generous will prosper; (NCV) those who help others will themselves be helped.
 - D. How do I change the way I talk to others?
 - 1. Luke 6:45 (NLT) 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.
What you say flows from what is in your heart.
 - E. What if I’m not motivated to change how I talk to others. Realize that God hears and cares about the words we speak. [Psalm 19:14 (NLT) **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you,** O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.] If I’ve not pleased God by the words I say to others, I need to ask God to forgive me and help me change and ask the people I’ve talked bad to, to forgive me.
 - F. Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight.
 - G. Aaronic blessing, [Numbers 6:22–26 (NLT) Then the Lord said to Moses, ²³ “Tell Aaron and his sons to **bless the people of Israel** with this special blessing: ²⁴ ‘May the Lord bless you and protect you. ²⁵ May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. ²⁶ May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.’] Christians are called, “a Kingdom of Priests” in the NT.
 - H. [Colossians 3:9 (NCV) Do not lie to each other. You have left your old sinful life and the things you did before.]
 - I. Mt. 5:44–47 (NLT) But I say, **love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!** ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be **acting as true children of your Father** in heaven...]
 I’m not loving people I’m in conflict with when I yell, gossip, etc.