

To have next-level relationships, choose your words carefully.

Proverbs 18:20–21 – Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction. The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

James 3:2–10 – 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. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 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!

To have next-level relationships:

1. Be aware of when you speak.

Proverbs 10:19 – Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.

- Not when it's out of anger.
(Proverbs 14:29; Proverbs 15:18; Proverbs 22:24-25)
- Not when it's gossip.
(Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 26:20)
- Not when it's all about you.
(Proverbs 18:2; Proverbs 27:2)

SPEAK

2. Be concerned with how you speak.

Ephesians 4:15a – Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ.

- Always be truthful.
(Proverbs 12:19, 22)
- Always be loving.
(Colossians 4:6; Proverbs 16:24)

3. Be wise in what you speak.

Proverbs 12:18 – Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

- Speak to build up.
(Ephesians 4:29)
- Speak to repair.
(Ephesians 4:32; James 5:16)
- Speak to save.
(Romans 10:14; Romans 1:16)

Coming soon:

1. **The Gospel-Shaped Marriage:** As Christians, the reality of the Gospel ought to impact every fiber of our being, including our marriages. Whether you are thinking about getting married one day or have been married for decades, join us as the class continues this Wednesday at 6:15 pm.
2. **Baptism Sunday:** Baptism is the first step of obedience upon placing your faith and trust in Jesus. If you're ready to take this next step and go public with your faith, sign up for baptism on Sunday, February 22: danriverchurch.org/baptism.
3. **Firefighter Breakfast:** One of our favorite outreach events of the year is almost here. Join us on Tuesday, February 24, as we serve those who serve our city.
4. **DNOW 2026:** DNOW is a high-energy weekend retreat where 6th–12th grade students gather for worship, Bible study, and activities. Join hundreds of students from our city for this life-changing weekend March 6–8. Register using the QR code.