

WORDS MATTER – p. 1
“Singing Affirmation”
Ephesians 5:15-21

Words Matter

Today we begin a 5 part series entitled “Words Matter” –

- Specifically we will talk about “Practicing Biblical Affirmation.”
- Week 1 – “Singing Affirmation”
- Week 2 – “Where Affirmation Begins”
- Week 3 – “Affirming the Wayward”
- Week 4 – “Affirming the Weak”
- Week 5 – “Blessing Those Who Curse You”

The Bible has a lot to say about speaking –

- Proverbs 10:20 – *“The tongue of the righteous is choice silver...”*
- Proverbs 12:18-19 – *“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”*
- Proverbs 15:1, 4 – *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger...A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”*
- Proverbs 18:21 – *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”*
- Luke 6:45 – *“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*
- Ephesians 4:29 – *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 – *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up...”*

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

Pray

Put Off and Put On

Our text today is set in the larger context of chapter 4:22-24 –

“To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

There is a metaphor in this –

- You’re changing your clothes –
 - You are taking off dirty, filthy clothing (this would be the old way of life dominated by sin)
 - You are being renewed or washed in the spirit of your mind (this is the cleansing Word)
 - You are putting on new, clean and beautiful clothes (this is the righteousness of Christ)
- So what follows are many examples of what this looks like in your life –
 - So we are to put off “unwise” living (v. 15) and replace it with “wise” living –
 - Because we live in toxic times!
 - He says, “Because the days are evil”! (v. 16)
 - So put off foolishness (v. 17) and replace it with understanding the will of the Lord!
- Our message for today flows from a third “put off and put on” in verse 18 –
 - Here’s the put off – *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery...”*
 - Debauchery =
 - This is the same word that Luke uses to describe the Prodigal Son – He took his inheritance from his father and wasted it in reckless and worthless debauchery.

- Drunkenness –
 - Affects (to the point of control) the mind; how you think
 - Affects the emotions; how you feel
 - Affects the will; the choices you make
- Drunkenness is a full surrendering of your heart to debauchery.
- Here's the put on – *"...but be filled with the Spirit."*
 - Being filled with the Spirit –
 - Affects (to the point of control) your mind; the things you will believe and trust
 - Affects your heart; the things you will love and desire
 - Affects your choice; the way you go or path you follow
 - Being filled with the Spirit will result in –
 - Addressing one another in songs...
 - Giving thanks...
 - Submitting to one another...

Addressing One Another

- v. 19 – "Addressing one another..."
 - This word "addressing" is the most basic and prominent Greek word in the NT which simply means to speak.
 - The parallel passage is Colossians 3:16 – *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs..."* (NASB)
 - So what Paul says generally in Ephesians (speaking or addressing) he defines specifically in Colossians as "teaching" and "admonishing".
- So, while we are worshipping through song, we are both teaching and admonishing one another in Christ.

A Heart Song

- v. 19b – *"...singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart."*
 - What?
 - Don't you make a melody with your mouth?
 - Don't you make a melody with your vocal cords?
 - What's with making a melody with your heart?
 - Emphasis –
 - You can make a melody with your mouth and vocal cords yet never worship.
 - But you can't make a melody with you heart and not worship!
 - The true beauty of your singing to God isn't how it sounds coming out of the mouth, but what it feels coming out of the heart.
 - No one wants to be loved by a heartless lover – God doesn't want to be worshipped by a heartless worshipper.
 - So we make a melody with our hearts to the Lord.

Application

1 – Do you accept your role in corporate worship?

2 – Would your singing actually teach or admonish someone in need?