

The Words we Speak

A New Years Exhortation

Colossians 4:2-6; James 3:1-4

I. The Words We Speak to God – Col. 4:2-4

A. Prayer is Natural for a Christian.

B. It is natural to ask others to pray for us.

II. The Words We Speak to the Lost -- Col. 4:5

III. The Words We Speak Every Day -- Col. 4:6

A. With graciousness

B. Controlling the Tongue – James 3:1-4

1. Speaking is more dangerous than Hearing -- James 3:1

Prov 17:28 -- Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise:
and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

2. The Tongue is a constant source of sin -- James 3:2

3. The Tongue is to be controlled, not controlling us -- James 3:3-4

1) The Bridle - The blessing of control.

2) The Rudder – The safety of control.

Rules for Proper Communication

1. Keep your communication honest.

Ephesians 4:25, 29-31 -- Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another.... ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary ^[a]edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, ^[b]clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

2. Keep your communication tactful.

Prov. 29:11 *"A fool uttereth all his mind".*

3. Keep your communication under control.

Prov 12:18 -- There is one that speaks like the piercings of a sword:
but the tongue of the wise is health.

Prov 15:1 -- A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 30:33 -- For pressing milk produces curds,
pressing the nose produces blood,
and pressing anger produces strife.

4. Keep your communication positive

This is the heart of Col. 4:6 – graciousness

Prov. 25:11 -- A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

5. The greatest way to make sure you speak proper words – Guard your heart.

Philippians 4:8 -- Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.