

## **Wise words: Getting to the heart of godly communication.**

### **Intro.**

In August of 1854 a suburb of London where Cambridge Street joins Broad Street experienced the most deadly outbreak of cholera ever recorded in England. Within 250 feet of this street corner over 500 people died of cholera in 10 days. Dr. John Snow who lived nearby, tried to warn people that the cause of the Cholera was the contamination of the public water source for this neighborhood called the Broad Street well. Other doctors mocked him and said the water was fine, that cholera was caused from breathing infected air particles. Snow meticulously traced the death of every person to the drinking of the water. In the neighborhoods drinking from a different well there was no cholera. They shut down the well and the epidemic stopped immediately. Snow eventually discovered the water had been infected by a mother washing her baby's soiled diaper near the well. No number of medicines, prayers, and human remedies could stem the deaths or infections. It wasn't until they purified the source of the water that it stopped being deadly.

In Matthew 12:34, Jesus said "***For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.***" A heart contaminated with anger, resentment and pride poisons our words often with deadly effects on relationships. It is fruitless to try to have sweet words when we have a poisoned heart.

God says the whole human race is contaminated by sinful, selfish hearts. The result is a pandemic of harmful words, fighting, conflict and slander. Romans 3:10-18 says,

***For they are all under sin, whether Jew or Gentile as it is written,. . . "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, "The poison of asps is under their lips. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"; "Their feet are swift to shed blood, Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes.***

In order to have God purify our heart from using harmful word we must:

**1. Remember the power of our words.** Over 60 proverbs deal with our tongue.

**12:1 - *there is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.***

**18:21 - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.***

a. **Our words are Like a sword or like a scalpel.** The one is intended to hurt the other to heal. The one used with malicious intent the other with good intent. The one wielded wildly to inflict damage or death , the other wielded with careful precision to cause healing and life.

b. **Encouraging word can alleviate others misery.**

12:25 - ***Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.***

16:24 - ***Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones***

c. **Our ungodly words can bring misery to others**

15:4 - ***A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit***

d. **Our words are remembered by God and people.**

i. **Matthew 12:36**

***Jesus said, "But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken."***

ii. **James 5:9**

***"Do not complain brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold the judge is standing right at the door"***

## 2. **Recognize our ungodly communication** – Matt 7:5. Psalm 139:24

Ask God to show you. Here is what God says is ungodly, sinful talk:

### a. Quarreling, arguing,

**17:14 - *The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.***

**20:3 - *Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.***

**Illustration:** Quarrelling is the outpouring of an angry heart. Can't stop quarrelling until the heart is soothed. To try to do so is like telling a patient to stop moaning without giving them pain relief. They will not stop moaning until the pain stops. Your quarrelling won't stop until Christ soothes your heart.

### b. Sarcasm, insults,

**26:18-2 - *Like a maniac shooting, flaming arrows of death<sup>19</sup> is one who deceives their neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"<sup>20</sup> Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.***

### c. Anger, threats

**18:6 - *A fool's lips bring strife and his mouth calls for blows.***

**11:13 - *An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.***

**30:33 - *For the churning of milk produces butter, and pressing the nose bring forth blood; so the churning of anger produces strife.***

### d. Overtalk, quick to talk without listening

**18:2 - *A fool does not delight in understanding but only in revealing his own mind.***

**18:13 - *He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.***

**10:19 - *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.***

**12:16, 23 - A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of a fool proclaims folly.**

**17:28 - Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise, when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.**

**e. Gossip or slander.**

**16:28 - A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate**

**17:9 - He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends**

**29:22 - He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.**

**Don't listen to slander or gossip.**

**17:4 - An evildoer listens to wicked lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.**

**18:8 - The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.**

**20:19 - He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip.**

**f. Refusing to talk or talking lies. 26:24-28**

**Like a maniac shooting, flaming arrows of death**

**<sup>19</sup> is one who deceives their neighbor and says, "I was only joking!"**

**Enemies disguise themselves with their lips, but in their hearts they harbor deceit.**

**<sup>25</sup> Though their speech is charming, do not believe them, for seven abominations fill their hearts.**

**<sup>26</sup> Their malice may be concealed by deception, but their wickedness will be exposed in**

**<sup>28</sup> A lying tongue hates those it hurts and a flattering mouth works ruin.**

### 3. Repent of ungodly communication. Don't make excuses.

- a. Don't make excuses: Our heart is the source of our harmful words.  
**Prov 4:23; Matt 15:19**

**Matt. 15:19:** *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, [a]fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders..*

Beware of making excuses for your ungodly talk such as:

- i. Retaliation. They hurt me and deserve it.
- ii. Unmet desires. They don't care for me.
- iii. Bad mood. I'm just in a bad mood.
- iv. Bad circumstances. I'm just having a bad day/ I'm tired/ I'm hungry/ I'm emotional today.
- v. Note these are all the above are **temptations** to bad talk, but the **ultimate cause** is OUR own heart, choosing to respond to these circumstances in a sinful way instead of obedience to Christ letting Him empower us.

- b. **Heart anger always fuels bad word and conflict. Repent of a bad heart.**

*11:13 - An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.*

*30:33 - For the churning of milk produces butter, and pressing the nose bring forth blood; so the churning of anger produces strife*

- i. Unmet desires fuel anger. Our desires become idols of the heart fueling anger if we don't have them. James 4:1-2; Col. 3:18
- ii. Bitterness defiles the heart and other's hearts. Heb. 12:15

### 4. Replace: Purify the contaminated heart with the love-producing water of God's word.

Jesus has the power to transform hostility into harmony instantly. The following are a few examples:

**Ephesians 4:31-32 – Anger and wrath into kindness and forgiveness**

**1 Peter 3:8-12 – hostility and fighting into blessing each other.**

**Col. 3:12-14 – Resentment, disharmony into loving unity**

**Illustration: The Philippian Jailor was changed** by Jesus from angry, indifference to Paul's suffering to compassionate bandaging of his wounds and humble gratefulness. **Acts 16:22-34**

**Illustration: Paul was changed** by Jesus from an angry, self-righteous, violent man to a humble servant of others. **Acts 9; 2 Timothy 1:12-17**

**1. Replace unbiblical thinking with biblical truth.**

**a. Cor. 10:4-5**

*"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."*

**2. Replace anger at unmet desire with Praise and thanks for the Lord's lavish, unconditional, eternal love, forgiveness and blessing toward you in Christ. Ephesians 4:31-32**

*"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

**Illustration: You don't stop water from filling a pier hole.** It can't be done. The water is fed from a water table and has an unending source. The water is stopped automatically by filling the hole with concrete, which being heavier, forces out the water, and seals it off. So sinful speech can't be stopped by simply asking god to help you with it. It is sealed off as you replace it with biblical truth and practice empowered by Christ.