

WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS

What does your speech say about you? What do your words tell others about your character? Does your speech reveal a heart that is kind and understanding? Do your words reveal a heart that is calloused and selfish? Perhaps you have a heart full of pride which manifests itself with words of arrogance. Let's think about three passages that emphasize giving attention to our words.

In Ephesians 4, the Holy Spirit chastises the brethren for having the heart of a Gentile. He refers to "*the futility of their mind*" (Eph. 4.17). He describes "*the ignorance that is in them*" (Eph. 4.18). And then he refers to "*the blindness of their heart*" (Eph. 4.19). In contrast to the behavior of the Gentiles, he then says, "*But you have not so learned Christ*" (Eph. 4.20). As a Christian following the example of Christ, you have learned a better way to live. You have "*put off, concerning your former conduct*" and have "*put on the new man*" (Eph. 4.21-24).

The very next verse begins with "*therefore*" (Eph. 4.25). Having a heart that has been transformed and living after the example of Jesus, therefore, you need to make some changes in your behavior. Of interest, of all the changes that need to take place, most of them relate to your speech.

First, the Holy Spirit makes reference to lying. He says, "*Therefore, put away lying.*" One who lies reveals the character of their heart. And a heart that has been transformed does not lie but will "*speak truth with his neighbor*" (Eph. 4.25). He goes on to say, "*be angry, and do not sin*" (Eph. 4.26). Someone who always speaks words of anger reveals a heart that is bitter and angry. Skipping down a few verses, he then says to "let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4.29). The word "corrupt" refers to anything that is contaminated or dirty. It refers both to language that is itself obscene and offensive and language that results in contaminating others. Instead, our words are to be "*what is good for necessary edification*" (Eph. 4.29).

Do you remember what they said to Peter after Jesus was arrested? In Matthew 26.73, they said, "*Surely you are one of them, for your speech betrays you.*" What you say matters because it reveals your heart. So how can we improve our speech? It begins by having a change of heart. Allow your heart to be transformed by Jesus, and watch how your speech is transformed. Perhaps others will be able to say of you, "*Surely you are one of them*" (Matt. 26.73).

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

April 5, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

The Bride of Christ

While Ephesians 5 gives us invaluable insights to the relationship between husbands and wives, it is not this marriage that the writer had in mind. At the end of the chapter, we are told, "*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*" Consider three details about the marriage between Christ and His church.

First, the church is to be submissive to Christ. Ephesians 5.23 tells us that "*the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church.*" This means that the church is to submit to the kind of worship, organization, and doctrine given by Christ (Eph. 1.22,23).

Second, the church is loved by Christ. The text goes on to say that husbands are to love their wives "*just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.*" This means that each and every one of us as members of His church are deeply loved by Jesus. Jesus did not die for an organization. He gave His life for people. And even now, He continues to care for His people (Eph. 5.28-30).

Third, the church is united with Christ. Quoting from the book of Genesis, he then writes that "*a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*" (Eph. 5.31). There is a united purpose between Christ and His people as we leave the world and are joined to Him.

Marriage is a wonderful and rewarding relationship. And it is that kind of relationship that characterizes our relationship with Christ. CLP

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

INTRODUCTION:

1. The resurrection of Christ changed Paul's life. (Phil. 3.3-10)
2. Not everyone believed. (Matt. 22.23; Acts 17.18; 24.23)
3. The resurrection has the power to change your life.

I. THE PASSAGE

- A. Preaching the gospel.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.1:** *"you received"*
 2. **1 Corinthians 15.1:** *"and in which you stand"*
 3. **1 Corinthians 15.2:** *"by which also you are saved"*
 4. **1 Corinthians 15.3,4:** What is the gospel?
- B. Proof of the resurrection.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.5:** The eyewitness of the apostles.
 2. **1 Corinthians 15.6:** The eyewitness of the brethren.
 3. **1 Corinthians 15.7:** The eyewitness of James.
 4. **1 Corinthians 15.8-11:** The eyewitness of Paul.

II. THE POWER

- A. The power to change Peter's life.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.5:** *"He was seen by Cephas"*
 2. The men on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24.32-34)
 3. Jesus appears to His disciples. (Luke 24.36)
 4. Consider the change in Peter. (Acts 1.15; 2.14)
- B. The power to change James' life.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.7:** *"After that He was seen by James"*
 2. James was influential. (Acts 1.14; 12.17; 15.13)
 3. He was a pillar in the church. (Gal. 2.9)
 4. He did not always believe. (John 7.5)
- C. The power to change Paul's life.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.8:** *"last of all He was seen by me"*
 2. Paul was a persecutor of the church. (Acts 26.9-11)
 3. From persecutor to proclaimer. (Acts 26.19,20)
- D. The power to change your life.
 1. **1 Corinthians 15.12-19:** If there was no resurrection.
 2. **1 Corinthians 15.20:** Your faith has been confirmed.

CONCLUSION: Jesus has been declared to be the Son of God *"with power...by the resurrection from the dead"* (Rom. 1.4)

WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS

The Bible frequently places emphasis not just on what you do, but also on what you say. Jesus Himself warns us that *"every idle word that men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment"* (Matt. 12.36). What makes our words so consequential that we need to give special attention to what we say?

If you back up into the context of Matthew 12, Jesus asked a telling question: *"Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matt. 12.34). In context, Jesus is in a battle with the scribes and Pharisees who accused Him of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub (Matt. 12.22-24). In His response, Jesus accused them of speaking blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. It was a sin that was unforgivable. Why? Because what they said revealed a heart that would never change. In verse 33, Jesus said that *"a tree is known by its fruit."* While Jesus could know the heart of man, the Pharisees revealed their own heart by the fruit of their lips. It is in the same context of Matthew 12 that Jesus said, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things"* (Matt. 12.35).

If you turn over a few chapters, you will find Jesus making the same point to the scribes and Pharisees. In Matthew 15, the scribes and Pharisees accuse the disciples of not washing their hands before they eat in keeping with the traditions of the elders (Matt. 15.1,2). Jesus accusing them of choosing to keep their traditions over obeying the commandments of God (Matt. 15.3-9). He then takes His disciples off to the side and teaches them a valuable lesson. He tells them, *"Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man"* (Matt 15.11). When they asked for an explanation, He further elaborated by saying that *"those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man"* (Matt. 15.18).

What you say matters because the words that you speak reflect what is in your heart. We often say that we cannot know what is in a person's heart. That is true to some extent. But it is also true that we can in fact know the heart of another when they reveal their heart in what they say. Your words are a dead giveaway to your character. [continued on back]