Let No Corrupt Communication Proceed From Your Mouth

David Banning · Ephesians 4:29 · Series: **Christian Living (The Struggle With Sin)**

INTRODUCTION

- Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth. But only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- To put off what is rotten and to put on what is wholesome and appropriate and fitting. That's the challenge that we face as Christians with regard to our speech.

1 Irreverent Use of God's Name

Exodus 20:7; Matthew 6:9; Psalm 111:9

- I think it meant that they weren't to use the name of God in any way that was idle or flippant or irreverent.
- In Matthew chapter 6 and verse 9, he says, hallowed is your name.
- To use the name of God in a way that is flippant or for an expletive or for a curse demonstrates an utter lack of respect for Him.
- Wholesome communication surely would be free of any irreverent use of God's name.

2 Filthy and Vulgar Words

Matthew 5:13–16

- If our society judges a certain word or certain language to be filthy, how much more should Christians abstain from that kind of talk?
- Let your light shine before such men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- People notice what we say. And the kind of language we use is a reflection on our character.
- Anything that society judges as filthy and vulgar would be completely inconsistent with our effort to be a good representative of Jesus Christ.

3 Lying, Deceiving

Ephesians 4:25

- Laying aside falsehood, speak the truth, each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.
- The reason a Christian can't lie is because it's fundamentally opposed to his new character in Christ.
- As a Christian, we tell the truth. We're honest. That's our character. And so to lie is completely out of character.

4 Borderline Language

Ephesians 4:29

- Do I ever want to do or say anything that leaves doubt with others about my commitment to following Jesus?
- When in doubt, what? Leave it out.
- The goal is to be edifying and wholesome and uplifting in our speech.
- Brethren, it's not seeing how close we can get to the line. It's not trying to define vulgar so we can get right up against it without slipping over.

5 Hurtful, Insulting Things We Say to Our Spouses

Proverbs 12:18

- There are some married couples who are convinced that there's a different set of rules in the privacy of their own home.
- It doesn't build up our marriage, it discourages growth in our relationship, it tears down and it destroys.
- Even after the fight's over and even after forgiveness, those hurtful words will cause pain for years to come.
- We need to repent to our spouse and commit ourselves to refrain from that kind of abuse of this great gift of speech God's given us.

6 Grumbling and Complaining

1 Corinthians 10:6–11

- Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- Some can be guilty of grumbling against God's appointed leaders. Like the Israelites grumbled against Moses.
- Grumbling is corrupt communication because it is devastating to the body of Christ.
- We need to learn to rejoice in what's good and what's right and celebrate that.

MY NOTES