

# Words

Words are used every day by everyone. There are all kinds of words: generous, stingy, loving, hateful, kind, unkind, angry, peaceful, loud, quiet, etc. The words that Christians use are very important. Our words will either draw people to faith in Christ and a deep walk with God, or our words will drive people away. Consider some of the types of words Christians should use.

There are calm words (Proverbs 15:1). I know you have heard men or women explode in anger and you might have even been the recipient of a tirade of words that have left you reeling. We cannot control the temperature, harshness, or volume of the words of another. We can, however, try to control the temperature, harshness, and volume of our own words. A soft answer, in dealing with people who have done wrong or offended us, will also help keep us from a lot of angry, violent reactions (cp. Proverbs 3:30; 19:11).

There are cautious words (Proverbs 10:19; 11:13). Have you ever said something you were sorry for later? We say things especially in anger that we do not really mean, and yet the damage is done! Have you noticed that the more a person talks, the more likely he or she is to say something they should not say? When we put no damper on our words, we are likely to say things that are either sinful or disturbing to someone else (Psalm 141:3). Be cautious of gossip, slander, and talebearing. They destroy instead of edify.

There are corrective words (Proverbs 11:14; 25:12). You are probably familiar with two friends in the Bible. The older man was named Jonathan. He was the king's son. The younger man was David. They were good friends and I am sure David was able to learn and be encouraged by the words and actions of Jonathan. One time David was on the run, fleeing for his life from King Saul, and Jonathan strengthened him (1 Samuel 23:16). Who is your David? Who can you encourage this week? There are all times when we need someone to stand beside us.

There are commendable words (Proverbs 25:11). Whatever "*apples of gold in pictures of silver*" refers to, we are being told that the right word spoken at the right time by the right person is commendable. There have been times when you have needed a word of encouragement or correction. Or there was a time when you needed to hear the gospel, and someone shared it with you. These are words fitly spoken. Thank God for the people who have fitly spoken in your life.

Ask God to give you a chance this week to share the right words with the right people at the right time. Colossians 4:5-6 says, "*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*" Use your words wisely. Your salvation and the salvation of others depends on it.

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