






HOW WE SPEAK MATTERS

- James 3:2-12
- It doesn't take much life experience to see how true this scripture is! Just a careless word here or there can change the direction of a marriage, a career, a community, and, most importantly, a soul.
- Notice the emphasis on how small the tongue is. Of course, this isn't so much about the literal tongue as it is the words we say and their disproportionate impact. Also consider Ecclesiastes 10:12-15.

WORDS & MORAL EXCELLENCE

- Ephesians 5:3-12
- “Filthiness”, “Foolish talking”, and “coarse jesting” seem to be covering a wide range of immoral expression.
- “Rather giving of thanks” – there’s always an alternative. Positive, proactive, truthful language (Phil. 4:8, Eph. 4:25).
- Does this mean I can’t be humorous? Am I just supposed to be a stick in the mud to my friends and family?





CARELESS WORDS

Matthew 12:36-37



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Proverbs 26:18-19 – Don't use jokes as a veil for wickedness
- Proverbs 15:23, 27:14, James 1:19 – Timing is everything
- Proverbs 18:13, 15:28, 21:23, 12:23 – You don't have to say it all
- Proverbs 15:1, 17:28, 25:15 – Disciplined speech
- Proverbs 26:20, 16:28, 17:9 – Drop it! Don't be a gossip
- Proverbs 10:31-32 – Righteous speech vs. profanity



- Finally, the most important question to ask is whether or not we speak with any distinction. Can people tell we're Christians, or do we blend in with the Ashdodites (Neh. 13:24)?
- Speak like God (1 Pet. 4:11, 1 Thess. 2:4, Col. 3:8-9, 3:16-17).