

Words We Should Avoid

In life we possess few gifts with a greater capacity to impact our lives and the lives of those we touch than our ability to communicate. Our words impact the people that we interact with (Proverbs 12:18; 18:21). Our words impact us (Matthew 12:34-37). Since they carry such huge consequences, it would only make sense that God would tell us exactly how to communicate with one another (Ephesians 4:22-29). Let's consider a few of the words that God wants us avoid.

I. Some words we already agree on:

- A. _____ God's name
 - 1. The third of the Ten Commandments prohibited the vain use of God's name (Exodus 20:7).
 - 2. Jesus says the name of God is to be hallowed (Matthew 6:9).
- B. Anything our society deems as _____ and _____
 - 1. God demands that we live by a strict standard when it comes to our speech (Ephesians 4:29). The word "unwholesome" Paul uses is a reference to bad language. He is talking about language that is crude, foul, rotten, and worthless (Ephesians Truth Commentary pg. 219).
 - 2. James says this kind of language should not be used by disciples (James 3:8-10).
 - 3. If we use filthy curse words, our influence is greatly diminished (Colossians 4:5-6; Matthew 5:16).

II. Some others words we need to consider:

- A. _____
 - 1. This is a class of words that may not be technically judged by our culture as vulgar, but some would still consider them ugly and rude.
 - 2. We must stay away from any kind of speech that can cause others to question who we are and what we believe about the Lord (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:5-6).
- B. Anything designed to hurt our _____
 - 1. God expects us to know our spouse (1 Peter 3:7a). But so often couples use that knowledge to hurt one another!
 - 2. It is wrong to use words to wound and hurt our spouse (1 Peter 3:7b).
- C. _____
 - 1. The Bible has much to say about this (Proverbs 20:19; 2 Corinthians 12:20).
 - 2. Here is how we can stay away from this trap:
 - a. When we have a problem with someone, _____ to the person (Matthew 18:15).
 - b. Be careful when seeking _____. Never try to squirm out of obeying the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:15.
 - c. Remember the old _____. "If you can't say something _____, don't say _____."
 - d. Avoid _____! If there is no one to listen to a gossip, the gossip goes nowhere (Proverbs 26:20).

Conclusion: Our words are powerful...

...but God's words are _____ (Romans 1:16; John 12:48).