

Words – 3

Proverbs 18:21 (The Message)

²¹ Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

Even though there are about 800,000 words in the English language the average person knows only about 10,000 words, and uses only about 5,000 of those in everyday speech!

That is not many words to choose from to communicate every idea, emotion, event or desires

Each of the words we choose to use carry enormous power with them

- Power to heal or wound
- Encourage or discourage
- Speak the truth or tell a lie
- To praise or to criticize

The words we choose when opening our mouth are extremely important

Words are connectors, in fact they are our God connection

He connects with us – Genesis 1, 2; John 1:14; Psalm 107:20

We are created in His image – “speaking spirit” – Genesis 2:7

We connect with Him and others through our words

Ten symptoms of a sick tongue

Proverbs 12:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.

1 – Telling an untruth

Proverbs 12:22 (NKJV)

²² Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

#2 – Stirring up division

Proverbs 6:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; ¹³ He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; ¹⁴ Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. ¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

#3 – Being a Gossip (digging up dirt)

Proverbs 20:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.

#4 – Don't pass along false judgement

Slander is gossips close relative

- It is a false or malicious statement about someone
- Do you pass along negative information about someone to someone else?
- Did you hear that so and so did such and such?

Psalm 140:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow *him*.”

Proverbs 10:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool.

- Slander is not something you want to be involved in
- God's word says to not even associate with someone who is a slanderer

1 Corinthians 5:11 (NIV)

¹¹ But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

I am not suggesting that we have no contact with someone who has fallen into sin

- This is referring to someone who has been confronted yet refuses to repent
- Someone who flagrantly and unrepentantly walks in sin
- This was a publicly known scandal – a scoundrel
 - *They were proud of this well-known individual*
- Slander is mentioned right up there with Sexual immorality, idolatry and swindling

“There’s only one thing as difficult as unscrambling an egg, and that’s unspreading a rumor”

– George Sweeting – Former President Moody Bible Institute

5 – Breaking a confidence

Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

- A “faithful” person conceals a matter
- An “unfaithful” person doesn’t
 - *Not dangerous, illegal, or hurtful activity*
- We should feel safe to confess a sin to someone in the body
- Many times, unfortunately that’s not the case
- The Bible says we should confess our faults to one another

James 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- Is it possible that many of us are not healed because we won't confess our faults to another?
- Maybe we did it once but someone wasn't "faithful" with the confession
- We should create a safe place to confess and receive prayer for healing
- Spiritual, emotional and physical

Don't say: *"if I tell you do you promise not to tell anyone?"*

- You are expecting them to do something you're not doing
- If someone goes to you in confidence don't reveal it!
- To anyone!
- Don't allow yourself to become a person that loves to hear the dirt on everyone else

Proverbs 18:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The words of a talebearer *are* like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

- Let's become a safe place for confession and prayer
- Where we can share faults, failures and weaknesses
- Don't break a confidence – don't be a talebearer

#6 – Speaking curses instead of blessings

Romans 3:13–14 (NLT)

¹³ “Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies. “Snake venom drips from their lips.”* ¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”*

- Cursing is not just cussing
- Anyone can slip and say a word they shouldn't
- The bible is talking about something else
- Throats that are filled with death and decay
- Tongues that practice deceit
- Skilled in lying
- They are concealing snake venom
- Mouths full of cursing and bitterness

I believe the Bible is talking about pronouncing a curse over someone's life

- You and I have power in our words
- Am I choosing blessing or cursing?

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

Jesus and the fig tree – the power of our words

- The fig tree was leafy and appeared that it might have fruit
- As they approached they found it had none
- Jesus pronounces a curse

Mark 11:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then Jesus said to the tree, “May no one ever eat your fruit again!” And the disciples heard him say it.

- They came back the next to find that the tree was dead
- Dried up from the roots
- The disciples marveled
- Jesus wasn’t surprised - He understood the power of words

Mark 11:21–24 (NLT)

²¹ Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!” ²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. ²⁴ I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.

- “Damn” – a common cuss word
- Meaning: To be assigned to eternal damnation
- Yet we damn people all the time
- Our marriage, our children, our checkbook

Stop speaking curses upon people and things – its and abomination

Psalm 109:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; As he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him. ¹⁸ As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, So let it enter his body like water, And like oil into his bones.

- Every time you spew curses it's like a fountain
- More gets on you then the one you're cursing
- Because the curse is coming from what's inside of you
- You can't "waller" in the mud and remain clean

Matthew 15:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. ²⁰ These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you."

- If we have a mouth problem, we have a heart problem
- Hurt, bitterness, unforgiveness
- We need to ask God to give us a new heart

Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

#7 – Using God’s name in a vain, self-serving way

Exodus 20:7 (NKJV)

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

- Two ways to take Gods name in vain
- #1 – using His name as a curse word
- #2 – using His name in a self-serving way
- Do you ever say “God told me” in a self-serving way?
- To manipulate and get what you wanted
- I’ve heard people say, “you’re supposed to marry so and so and do such and such”
- If the word “God gave you” makes you the center of attention – it’s probably not God

Ezekiel 13:7 (NLT)

⁷ Can your visions be anything but false if you claim, ‘This message is from the LORD,’ when I have not even spoken to you?

Ezekiel 22:28 (NLT)

²⁸ And your prophets cover up for them by announcing false visions and making lying predictions. They say, ‘My message is from the Sovereign LORD,’ when the LORD hasn’t spoken a single word to them.

#8 – Filthy talk

We live in a generation that thinks nothing of speaking regularly with a foul, filthy mouth

Ephesians 5:3–4 (NLT)

³ Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. ⁴ Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.

Colossians 3:8 (NLT)

⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

- When you live in a culture that bombards you with filthy language it's hard not to participate
- Humor is “filthy” to say the least
- Deadpool – another kind of superhero – 84 F-bombs
- The language on many popular video games is just as bad
- Many TV shows are off color
- People don't think they can be funny without being perverse
- Jerry Lewis is still funny!
- God considers “filthy language” abominable, detestable and idolatrous
- So should we

#9 – Contentious speech

Thesaurus

Contentious: belligerent, argumentative, combative, quarrelsome, cantankerous

Proverbs 21:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Proverbs 26:21 (NKJV)

²¹ *As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.*

- Contentious speech becomes a habit
- Some people simply fall into a habit of arguing
- Do you always have to be right?
- Do you have to have the last word?
- Do you love to say – “I told you so!”
- No one wants to be around a person who argues all of the time
- You may be like this and unaware
- Ask your close friends, ask your spouse
- You do not have to always be right!

#10 Being pessimistic

Pessimism is unbelief

Hebrews 3:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “*Today*,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- An unbelieving heart is “evil”
- Antidote – exhort one another – daily
- How do you exhort others – your mouth!
- Unbelief is contagious and it spreads through negativity
- If you have a negative mouth you have a mouth of unbelief

“Negativity is simply the devil’s language spoken by those who have his perspective” – Jimmy Evans

Romans 10:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

- Yes, and Amen – **2 Corinthians 1:20**