
Jon Payne

SPEAKING GRACE: CULTIVATING THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Eph. 4:29

I. I. Examining the Diet of Our Words

A. The Context of Ephesians 4:29: Lives Transformed by the Gospel

1. Chapter 1: The Blessings of the Gospel
2. Chapter 2A: The Author of the Gospel
3. Chapter 2B-3: The Unity of the Gospel
4. Chapter 3B: The Power of the Gospel to Build Up the Church
5. Chapter 4: Gospel Transformation

B. The Call for our Speech: Speak Grace

II. Don't Speak Poisonous Words

A. Understanding Corrupting Speech

1. The word "corrupting" speaks of rottenness. It is not pure and beneficial but unhealthy, broken, damaging.
2. No corrupting Speech

B. Denying Truth

1. Denying the Character of God
2. Denying authority of God's Word
3. Denying the truths of the Gospel

C. Identifying Friendly Food Poisoning

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits. Proverbs 18:21

1. Words that Undermine Faith and Godliness

2. Presenting Half a Truth
 - a. Slander and Gossip
 - b. Biblical Mis-Emphasis
 - c. Truth Without Gratefulness
 - d. Truth Without Hope
 - e. Truth Without Love
 - f. Truth Without Humility

III. Speak Nourishing Words

- A. Every Christian, Every Word
 1. Every Christian Is a Dietician
 2. Every Word is Called to Build
- B. Providing a Balanced Diet
 1. Discerning the Occasion
 2. Broadening our Verbal Options
- C. Reflecting God's Grace
 1. Consider the Diverse Presentation of Biblical Speech
 2. Represent the Lord in Every Conversation

IV. The Heavenly Calling for Our Speech