

“ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Ephesians 4:29

## I. The Purpose for your speech

### A. Passages to consider

#### Within the congregation

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

#### In dealing with brethren and their level of maturity in the faith

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

#### As the children of light, with the hope of salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

### B. Lessons to learn

1. To edify, build up, others (**Eph 4:29; 1 Cor 14:26; Rom 14:19; 1 Thes 5:11**)

**This should be our primary goal, to build up others in what we say.**

2. To minister grace unto the hearers (**Eph 4:29**)

This is speaking of **graciousness** in our speech. Talking in a manner that is kind and benevolent to others so that they can receive what we have to say.

3. To warn them that are unruly (**1 Thes 5:14**)

It is each member's duty to maintain the gospel order of the church. When necessary we should be ready, in love, to give warnings to those who are not behaving in an orderly, disciplined, Christian manner.

4. To comfort the feebleminded (**1 Thes 5:14**)

This is loving and caring for those in difficult and stressful circumstances. Having words of comfort to others in times of personal distress.

5. To support the weak (**1 Thes 5:14**)

The LORD will send everyone opportunities to help others in their weakness. These can be children, the physically ill, the elderly, those new to the faith, or those under difficult circumstances.

## II. The Content of your speech

### A. Passages to consider

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

### B. Lessons to learn

#### 1. Things that are true (Phil 4:8)

Definition: Conformable to fact; in accordance with the actual state of things; correct; not false, erroneous, inaccurate, or the like.

- a) Some people live in a fictional world of imaginary beings, superheroes and fantasy.
  - b) Some people live in the fictional world of TV sitcoms, dramas and movies.
  - c) We should talk about what is real, such as God, heaven, and the coming judgment.
  - d) There is one area of knowledge that we know contains absolute truth: the Bible. Take the majority of your topics and facts for discussion with others from it and you will be on safe ground!
- Practical Point: Check out your facts before you say something. Make sure that you know what you are talking about before you open your mouth.

#### 2. Things that are honest (Phil 4:8)

Definition: Decent; honorable; suitable; becoming.

Characterized by integrity or fairness and straightforwardness in conduct, thought, speech, etc.; upright; just; equitable; trustworthy; truthful; sincere; free from fraud, guile, or duplicity; not false.

- a) The emphasis in our talking should be on subjects that promote honesty, integrity, and truthfulness.
  - b) The LORD repeats Himself often in Scripture to emphasize and promote character traits that He wants us to have.
  - c) We should follow that pattern in our speech to promote integrity, in ourselves and our hearers.
- Practical Point: Be upfront with people. We all make mistakes. Be quick and public to correct yourself and to receive correction from others.

### 3. Things that are just (Phil 4:8)

Definition: Honorable and fair in one's dealings and actions: a just ruler.

Consistent with what is morally right; righteous: a just cause.

- a) The world, particularly the media, bombard us with stories of injustice and instances of perversion in our world all the time.
- b) The Devil wants to distract us from serving God by having us focus on all the wrongs that are done.
- c) Both sources would discourage and dishearten us.
- d) We should look for things that are morally right and fair to discuss with others and ourselves.

- Practical Point: Make sure that you have the reputation for treating others fairly.

### 4. Things that are pure (Phil 4:8)

Definition: Free from moral defilement or guilt; hence, innocent; guileless; chaste

- a) We are in a perverse generation that despises purity and innocence.
- b) As children of Light we should want to always converse on pure, chaste and holy subjects.
- c) We should focus our speech on topics that are clean and wholesome for all concerned.

- Practical Point: Use language and subjects that you would not be ashamed of in front of mother or grandmother.

### 5. Things that are lovely (Phil 4:8)

Definition: Having such an appearance as excites, or is fitted to excite, love; beautiful; charming; very pleasing in form, looks, tone, or manner.

We should talk about subjects that are pleasing and charming to others.

### 6. Things that are of good report (Phil 4:8)

Report

1. That which is reported. Specifically:

- (a) An account or statement of the results of examination or inquiry made by request or direction; relation. From Thetis sent as spies to make report." Waller.
- (b) A story or statement circulating by common talk; a rumor; hence, fame; repute; reputation.

Good

1. Possessing desirable qualities; adapted to answer the end designed; promoting success, welfare, or happiness; serviceable; useful; fit; excellent; admirable; commendable; not bad, corrupt, evil, noxious, offensive, or troublesome, etc

2. Possessing moral excellence or virtue; virtuous; pious; religious; -- said of persons or actions

We should talk about subjects that have the reputation of being excellent, virtuous, that promote the success, welfare or happiness of others.

## **7. Things that are virtuous (Phil 4:8)**

I. Possessing or exhibiting virtue. Specifically: --

- (a) Exhibiting manly courage and strength; valorous; valiant; brave. [Obs.]
- (b) Having power or efficacy; powerfully operative; efficacious; potent. [Obs.]
- (c) Having moral excellence; characterized by morality; upright; righteous; pure; as, a virtuous action.

We should speak about matters that have moral excellence, that are righteous, pure and holy.

## **8. Things deserving of praise (Phil 4:8)**

- a) Praise and thanks to God should be always in our hearts and a normal topic of conversation.
- b) Men and women often have informal contests to see who can impress the others with their superiority in some area. Think about having a competition to see who can mention the most praise worthy objects or persons.
- c) Relating good things about others builds everyone up, those spoken about and those spoken to.

We should be quick to speak about praise worthy items.

## **9. Things which make for peace (Rom 14:19)**

- a) Jesus calls us to be peacemakers (Matt 5:9).
- b) What better way to build up someone than to create a peaceful environment for them with our speech?
- c) The easiest way to make peace is to avoid strife, division and debate.

We should not engage in discussions that will lead to controversy or a spirit of debate or contention.

## **10. Things wherewith one may edify another (Rom 14:19)**

- a) Talk about activities that build up others.
- b) Talk about thoughts that build up others.

This should be our great practical aim, building up and helping those we are talking to.

## **11. Things of spiritual comfort (1 Thes 5:11)**

- a) God's power and might
- b) God's love for His people
- c) Our salvation (1 Thes 5:9)
- d) Our hope of the resurrection (1 Thes 4:13-18)

## III. Manner of how you say it

### A. Passages to consider

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

#### 1. Be agreeable, of the same mind one toward another. (Rom 12:16)

- a) We should work to be in agreement with others as much as possible.
  - b) We should strive to be unified in our thoughts and ideas with our brethren.
  - c) This is primarily a state of
  - d) of mind that will be demonstrated in our actions (Luke 6:43-45). This will flow from a pure heart of godly love for others.
- Practical Point: Look the person in the eye as they speak.

#### 2. Be humble. (Rom 12:16; Col 3:12)

- a) As you talk, as much as possible, keep yourself out of the conversation.
  - b) Think about the other person's best interests, not your own, as you talk with them.
  - c) Pride is the principle cause of strife and disagreement (Pro 13:10) and it must be rooted out of our hearts and speech.
- Practical Point: Pay attention and listen carefully to others when they speak. Be concerned with hearing what they have to say before you start into your own thoughts.

#### 3. Be simple. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. (Rom 12:16)

- a) We are all sinners, at best vanity, nothingness (Psalm 39:5).
  - b) If you have some gift of intellect, ability or skill, it is a gift from God (1 Cor 4:7).
  - c) Use your gift to help others, not promote yourself.
- Practical Point: Do not interrupt, anticipate, or try to "help them out" someone with what they are saying. Let them finish their own thought in their own words.

## 4. Be longsuffering and patient (Col 3:12; 1 Thes 5:14)

- a) Be willing to take time when dealing with others.
  - b) Don't remember silly, foolish or hurtful things they have said to you in the past.
  - c) Be willing to overlook inconsiderate things said in your current conversation.
- Practical Point: Listen until they have completed what they are saying before responding.

## 5. Be loving (Eph 4:16)

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 should be part of our thoughts and actions, including how we talk to others.
- Practical Point: As you talk smile and visually react with others as they talk.

## 6. Speak in meekness (Col 3:12)

- Meek
1. Mild of temper; not easily provoked or irritated; patient under injuries; not vain, or haughty, or resentful; forbearing; submissive.
  2. Evincing mildness of temper, or patience; characterized by mildness or patience; as, a meek answer; a meek face.
- We need to be mild, patient under provocation, not resentful and forbearing to others in our speech.
- Practical Point: Think about what they have said before responding. Respond to what their thoughts and concerns are as they have expressed them.

## 7. Speak in kindness (Col 3:12)

1. The state or quality of being kind, in any of its various senses; manifestation of kind feeling or disposition beneficence.
  2. A kind act; an act of good will; as, to do a great kindness. Syn. -- Good will; benignity; grace; tenderness; compassion; humanity; clemency; mildness; gentleness; goodness; generosity; beneficence; favor.
- a) Our speech should always be gracious (Gal 4:6).
  - b) Others should leave wishing they had more time to spend with you and looking forward to the next opportunity talk with you.
- We should speak using words and in a manner that others perceive as mild, gentle, generous, good.
- Practical Point: Listen to and control the tone of your voice as your talk. Don't speak sharply or harshly to others.

## 8. Speak with bowels of mercies (Col 3:12)

- a) Don't be afraid to get involved with the lives of others when you talk with them.
  - b) Be demonstrative with your emotions for those you talk with.
- Our speech should be that which demonstrates great feeling and compassion for those to whom we are speaking.
- Practical Point: A hug, a gentle squeeze of the arm, a hand on the shoulder can all be low key but effective means of demonstrating concern to others.