

WORDS

Ephesians 4:29-32

Introduction:

A. Interesting facts about words

1. Everyone uses w_____, even those who are mute or non-verbal (sign, noises)
2. The average person spends _____ of their life talking (enough words to fill 132 four hundred page books each year).

B. Using words

1. Our creator God is w_____ than all and gives us that wisdom in His word, the Bible.
2. How are you to use words in your relationships at church, in your family, among your friends, and among the world?

Avoid harmful words (29a, 30, 31)

A. The kind of words that must NOT come out of our mouths (v. 29a)

1. Comparing versions (NAS – unwholesome; KJV – corrupt; NLT – foul and abusive)
 - a. These are a translation of a Greek word we find in Matt 12:33 and 13:48 to refer to a r_____ tree and fish respectively.
 - b. The word refers to a process of d_____
2. When you read this verse picture in your mind the s_____ of a decaying carcass as coming out of the mouth.

B. Application

1. Is this forbidding the use of all profanities?
 - a. In the South, “tee tee” is vulgar for u_____.
 - b. In England, “b_____” is considered vulgar.
 - c. In Australia, “fanny” is as offensive as the “_____” word in America because it refers to a women’s genitals.
 - d. The principle – don’t direct profanities at a person.
 - 1) The “F” word is an offensive term that defiles the holiness of s_____ (Heb 13:4) – it is verbal sexual assault.
 - 2) Calling a person the vulgarity for a piece of dung is reducing them to w_____.
2. Verse 31 names specific rotten speech not as an exhaustive but as e_____ so the reader gets the idea of the kind of speech that they are to avoid.
 - a. Bitterness, wrath, anger are various forms of being m_____.
 - b. Clamor refers to yelling.

- c. Slander is better translated as speaking evil (KJV) or talking b_____ about a person (whether true or not).
 - d. Malice refers to w_____ speech or being cruel and unkind.
- C. The effect of harmful words
1. Decays our h_____ relationships,
 2. Decays our f _____ with God (v. 30)
 - a. It g_____ the Holy Spirit (that means harmful words make Him extremely s_____).
 - b. The Holy Spirit s_____ you
 - 1) The word refers to a stamp of o_____ (NLT – *He has identified you as His own*).
 - 2) The sealing is for the day of r_____
 - a) This is the day Jesus returns and makes believers perfect in body, soul, and spirit – see 1Thess 5:23,24).
 - b) Jesus will identify us as belonging to Him by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. When we speak, we must remember to whom we belong and not make the Holy Spirit sorrowful.

Give helpful words (29b, 32)

- A. The kind of words that MUST come out of our mouths (v. 29b)
1. Comparing versions (NAS – good for edification; NIV – good for building up)
 - a. This translates a Greek word that is a metaphor for b_____ a house.
 - b. The word refers to the process b_____ a person up.
 2. The purpose of helpful words – to give g_____ (NIV – benefit; NLT – encouragement)
 - a. The Greek word refers to an undeserved g_____
 - b. Think of your words as giving someone a wrapped p_____ that they will receive and open.
- B. Application is made in two ways in verse 32
1. Being kind or tender h_____ (literally, good bowels – the Greeks saw this part of the body as the seat of e_____)
 2. Forgiveness
 - a. An undeserved gift that we received from God in C_____
 - b. An obligation that we have to all who have w_____ us
 - 1) In every relationship harmful words will be said to you.
 - 2) You must clearly communicate your forgiveness - never say, that's o_____ but I FORGIVE YOU.