

“Speech Test”
Ephesians 4:29
Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Introduction: Words are very powerful. Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Main Idea: A person made new by Jesus is to speak like a new person.

How do we do this?

We speak like a new person by putting off corrupt speech and putting on helpful speech.

1. Put off corrupt speech. The word that is translated, “corrupt,” in this verse means “harmful, bad, evil, unwholesome, spoiled, rotten, or putrid.” What are examples of corrupt speech that we are to put off?

- A. Taking the Lord’s Name in vain (Exodus 20:7)
- B. Complaining and criticism (Philippians 2:14)
- C. Boasting (James 4:16b)
- D. Lying (Ephesians 4:25)
- E. False doctrine (empty, hollow words without the substance of truth; the verbal expression of beliefs that do not line up with the Bible) [Ephesians 5:6]
- F. Profanity, obscenity, foolish talking, and coarse jesting (Ephesians 5:4, Colossians 3:8)
- G. Name calling (Matthew 5:22)
- H. Slander (Proverbs 6:19)
- I. Gossip (Proverbs 26:20-22, 1 Timothy 5:13) [Proverbs 18:17 and receiving accusations, 1 Timothy 5:19]

2. Put on good speech. Good is basically the opposite of corrupt. It includes the worship of God (Hebrews 13:15). It is speech that is helpful to people.

3. Put on speech that builds people up according to the need of the moment. Sometimes this means speaking encouraging and comforting words to one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Craig Groeschel says, “If you think something good, say it.” On the other hand, this sometimes means we need to speak (and hear) words of challenge, correction, or rebuke to others (Proverbs 27:5-6, 17). We tend to get this backwards, however. Paul Washer said, “Your best friend is the one who tells you the most truth.”

4. Put on speech that imparts grace. This involves speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). It includes our confession of Jesus (Matthew 10:32-33) and sharing the gospel with others (Romans 1:15-17). It includes ministering the Word of God to people. It could include praying for people.

Conclusion- How do we do this?

1. Surrender our lives to Jesus. Warren Wiersbe has written, “When Jesus Christ is the Lord of the heart, then He is Lord of the lips, too.”

A. Exposes our sinfulness and need for a Savior (Matthew 12:33-37).

B. A transformed heart gives the capacity for transformed speech (Matthew 15:10-20).

2. Repent of sinful speech (1 John 1:9).

3. Renew our minds (Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8).

4. Live in the power of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).