

God's People Are to Speak Correctly  
(Ephesians 4:29)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are concentrating on a very important subject addressed in Ephesians 4:29 -- "God's people are to speak correctly."
2. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES US TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE "QUANTITY" OF OUR WORDS (Proverbs 10:19)
  - A. The first part of this verse mentions "*the multitude of words.*"
    1. This refers to an uncontrolled tongue.
    2. Where an uncontrolled tongue exists, sin will not be far away.
  - B. The latter part of this verse mentions one who "*refrains*" [controls] his lips.
    1. One who "refrains his lips" is said to be "*wise.*"
    2. He will also avoid the sins associated with a multitude of words.
  - C. By making this contrast in Proverbs 10:19, Solomon emphasized the importance of paying attention to the "quantity" of our words.
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES US TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE "QUALITY" OF OUR WORDS
  - A. On the negative side, the Scriptures condemn uncontrolled speech.
    1. (Proverbs 8:13b) The Lord hates a "*froward*" [perverted] mouth.
    2. (Proverbs 13:3b) A person who opens his lips wide is headed for destruction.
    3. (James 1:26) Religion that is accompanied by an unbridled tongue is "*vain.*"
  - B. On the positive side, the Scriptures associate special blessings with controlled speech.
    1. (Proverbs 13:3a) One who "*keeps*" [guards] his mouth keeps his life.
    2. (Proverbs 17:27-28) Wisdom is associated with controlled speech.
    3. A special comparison is made in Proverbs 25:11.
    4. (1 Peter 3:10) Speaking correctly leads to long life and good days.
  - C. The Lord requires His people to pay attention to the "quality" as well as the "quantity" of our words.
  - D. Let us turn our attention to some . . .
- III. INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HELP US TO SPEAK CORRECTLY
  - A. Let us heed the Lord's admonitions such as the one given in Psalm 34:13.
  - B. Let us determine to control our speech with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
  - C. Let us remember that God is aware of the things we say (Psalm 139:4).
  - D. Let us learn to differentiate between times to speak and times to be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7).
  - E. Let us keep the right things in our hearts (Matthew 12:34-35).
  - F. Let us practice the instructions given in Colossians 4:6.

Conclusion:

1. We have covered a number of passages that relate to our speech.
2. They contain negative as well as positive instructions.
3. Ephesians 4:29 covers both sides.
  - a. Let us avoid letting corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths.
  - b. Let us speak in a way that edifies and that ministers grace to those who hear.