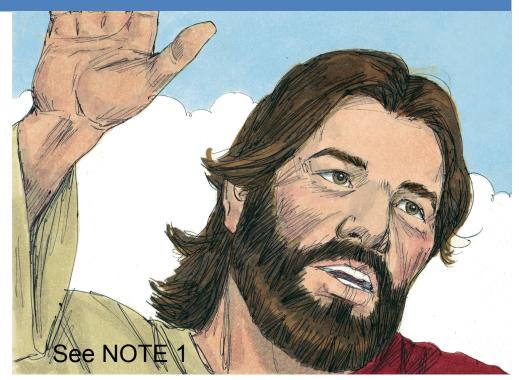


GOOD TREE - BAD TREE

☐ Matt 12:33-37 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out



of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

WORDS

- □ Last time we saw that words have power. It was the word of God that spoke the world into existence and created all living things.
 - > Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made...
 - ➢ Gen 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- ☐ Our words also have power (and I'm not referring to positive confession here). And so we are told:
 - > Prov 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death...
 - > With our careless words we can build people up or tear them down. We can also build up the kingdom of God or tear it down with our gossip and slander.

- 1. Watch your thoughts, they become your words.
- 2. Watch your words, they become your actions.
 - 3. Watch your actions, they become your habits.
- 4. Watch your habits, they become your character.
 - 5. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

OVERFLOW OF THE HEART

- ☐ The mouth is the overflow of the heart
 - Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.
 - Matt 12:33-34 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."

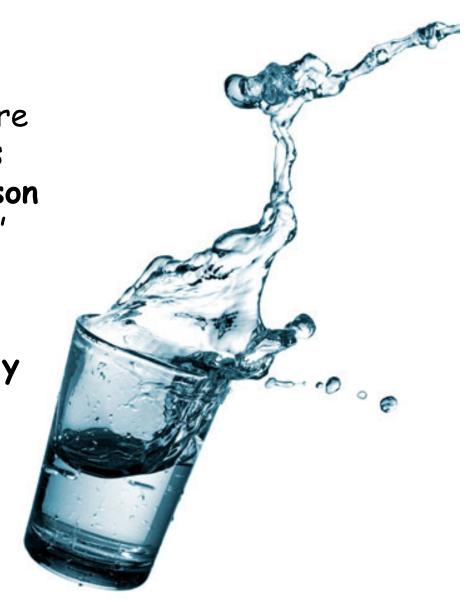
OVERFLOW OF THE HEART

☐ You cannot bump a glass of water and spill poison:

Rom 3:13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."

James 3:8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

 "Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter." -Samuel J. Hurwitt



OVERFLOW OF THE HEART

☐ And so we struggle to keep a rein on our tongues, because they are simply an outlet for what is already in our heart.

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

James 3:7-8 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue...



FILTHY LANGUAGE

☐ Some professing Christians speak no differently than unbelievers.

Col 3:7-8 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

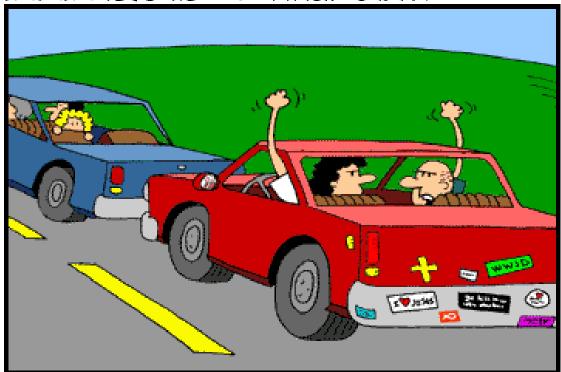
- Rom 3:13-14 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit" ... "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."
- ☐ Swearing is the crutch of the conversational cripple.



COARSE JOKING

- Obscenity or coarse joking
 - Eph 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
 - Prov 4:24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

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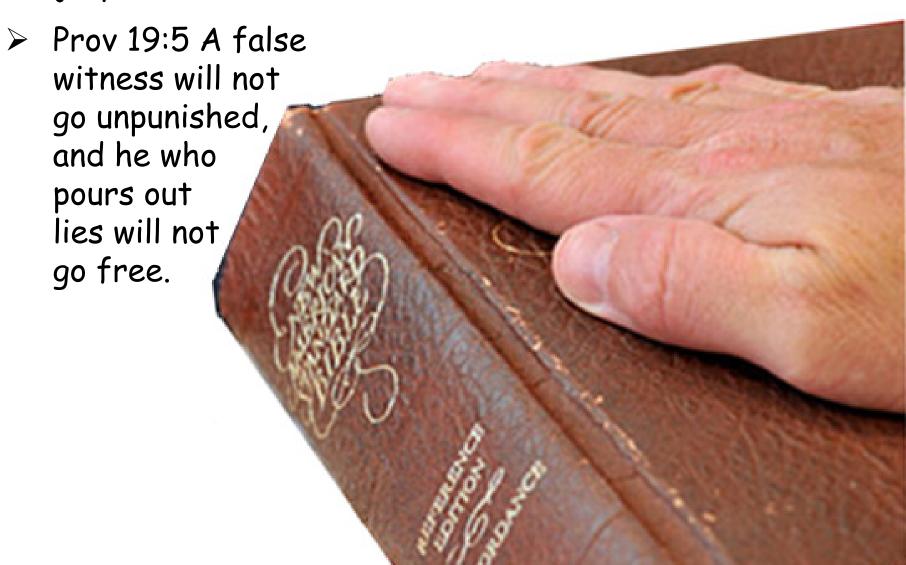
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT ALL THIS YELLING AND SWEARING IF I WERE YOU ... THEY'LL KNOW THAT WE'RE CHRISTIANS BY OUR BUMPER STICKERS

LIES

- □ Forbidden
 - > Col 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices
- ☐ Hated by God
 - Prov 6:16-19 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ... a lying tongue ... a false witness who pours out lies...
- ☐ But mastered and practiced by Satan
 - > John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil... not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

PERJURY

☐ Perjury forbidden

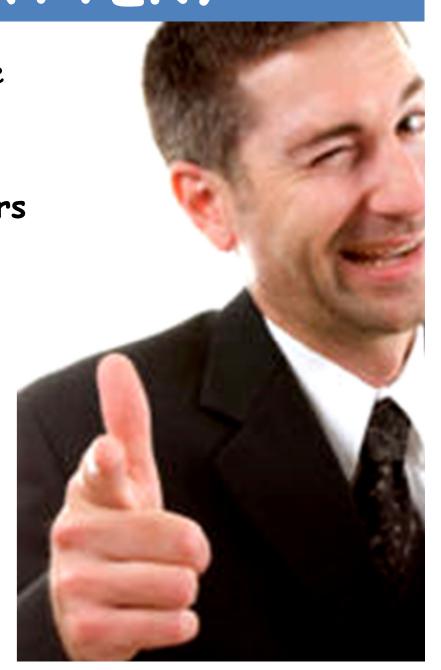


FLATTERY

☐ Flattery is complimenting people with an ulterior motive in mind:

> Jude 16 ...they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

- Fossip is saying behind their back what you would not say to their face. Flattery is saying to their face what you would not say behind their back.
- A flattering mouth works ruin - Prov 26:28



SELF-PRAISE

There's nothing more tiring than a person who is always talking about themselves and their achievements.

People run when they see someone like that coming towards them:

Prov 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

"Don't talk about yourself; it will be done when you leave."

- Wilson Mizner

But enough of me talking about me, now you talk about me.



SELF-PRAISE

"A gossip is one who talks to you about others;

a bore is one who talks to you about himself;

and a brilliant conversationalist is one who talks to you about yourself"

- Lisa Kirk

GRUMBLING

- ☐ It was because of grumbling that God was angry with the Israelites in the wilderness:
 - Num 14:27-29 "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me."
 - ➤ 1 Cor 10:10-11 And do not grumble, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.

GRUMBLING

- □ We too will be judged if we are always grumbling and complaining:
 - James 5:9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!
- □ Sometime we do the right things but grumble about doing them:
 - > 1 Pet 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- Phil 2:14-15 Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

MOCKING

- ☐ Four of the cruellest people in the world are:
 - 1. a healthy person jeering at an invalid
 - 2. the wealthy laughing at the poor
 - 3. the intelligent mocking a simple person
 - 4. a young person making fun of the elderly
- Mocking others, even behind their backs, destroys our capacity to respect them when we speak face to face.



MOCKING

"While the laughter of joy is in full harmony with our deeper life, the laughter of amusement should be kept apart from it. The danger is too great of thus learning to look at solemn things in a spirit of mockery,

and to seek in them opportunities for exercising wit." - Lewis Carroll

Prov 22:10-11 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended. He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

- □ Don't argue with a fool they'll drag you down to their level and then beat you on experience.
 - Prov 20:3 It is to a man's honour to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.
- □ So a fool loves confrontation and quarrelling:
 - > Prov 17:19a He who loves a quarrel loves sin
- ☐ People try and avoid a quarrelsome person:
 - > Prov 21:9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
 - > Prov 21:19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

☐ Q: How do you stop a quarrel?

> "A quarrel is quickly settled when deserted by one party; there is no

battle unless there be two."

- Lucius Annaeus Seneca

> "It takes two to quarrel, but only one to end it." - Matthew Prior





- And the Bible tells us the best way to stop a quarrel is not to start it in the first place.
 - > Prov 17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

- ☐ What causes quarrelling?
 - 1. PRIDE Prov 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
 - 2. COVETOUSNESS James 4:1-2 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.
 - 3. WORLDLINESS 1 Cor 3:3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

- □ Some Christians like to quarrel about controversial topics:
 - Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.
 - > 2 Tim 2:14b Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.
 - > 1 Tim 6:4b He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions
- ☐ And Christians leaders must not be quarrelsome:
 - > 1 Tim 3:2-3 Now the overseer must be ... gentle, not quarrelsome...

FOOLISH TALK

- □ 2 Pet 2:10-12 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand...
- Jude 8-10 In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand...



BLESSING

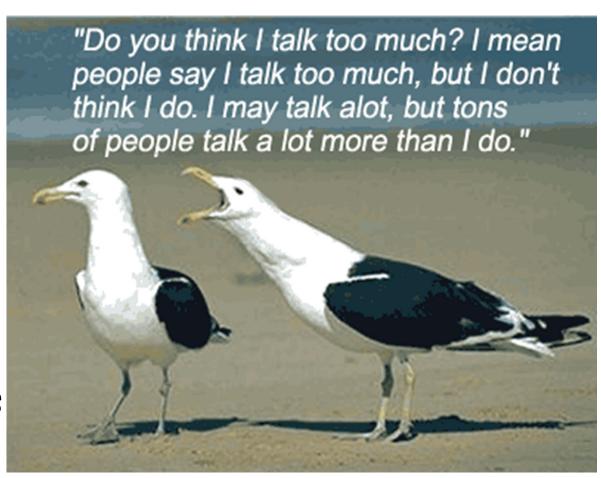
- ☐ We should overlook insults
 - Prov 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.
 - > "You are confronted again and again with the choice of letting God speak or letting your wounded self cry out. Although there has to be a place where you can allow your wounded part to a
 - allow your wounded part to get the attention it needs, your vocation is to speak from the place in you where God dwells." Henri J. M. Nouwen

BLESSING

- ☐ We should return blessings for insults:
 - > Luke 6:8 bless those who curse you...
 - > Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
 - ➤ 1 Pet 3:9-10 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.
- ☐ Be gentle in your responses:
 - Prov 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

DON'T TALK TOO MUCH

- □ Don't talk too much
 - > Prov 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
 - Prov 20:19b ... avoid a man who talks too much.
 - The general those who have nothing to say contrive to spend the longest time in doing it." James Russell Lowell



DON'T TALK TOO MUCH

- □ Rather we should guard our lips:
 - Prov 13:3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.
 - Prov 21:23
 He who
 guards his
 mouth and
 his tongue
 keeps
 himself
 from
 calamity.



SLOW TO SPEAK

- ☐ Try listening more and speaking less:
 - Figod has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue." Thomas Watson



SLOW TO SPEAK

- ☐ Think before you speak:
 - Prov 29:20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- □ We should be quick to listen and slow to speak:
 - ➤ James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry

BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP

- ☐ The Lord has enriched our speaking
 - > 1 Cor 1:5 For in him you have been enriched in every way in all your speaking and in all your knowledge
- □ So we should try build one another up with our speech:
 - Figh 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- ☐ Quote Scripture and spiritual songs:
 - > Eph 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

KIND WORDS

- ☐ Prov 12:25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.
 - "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." - Mother Teresa
 - "Kind words do not cost much. They never blister the tongue or lips." - Blaise Pascal
 - "Cold words freeze people, and hot words scorch them, and bitter words make them bitter, and wrathful words make them wrathful. Kind words also produce their image on men's souls; and a beautiful image it is. They smooth, and quiet, and comfort the hearer. They shame him out of his sour, morose, unkind feelings. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used." Blaise Pascal

SPEAK FOR THE OPPRESSED

- ☐ Speak up for those who cannot defend themselves:
 - > Prov 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.



ENCOURAGEMENT

- ☐ Encourage others:
 - Acts 20:2 He travelled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece
- ☐ Bring healing with your words:
 - > Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
 - > Prov 15:4 The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.
 - Prov 10:11a The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life...

KNOWLEDGE

- ☐ Impart spiritual knowledge:
 - Prov 20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.
 - Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.
 - > Prov 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.
 - Prov 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

THE TRUTH IN LOVE

- ☐ Speak the truth:
 - Figh 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.
- ☐ But do so in love:
 - Fph 4:15
 Instead,
 speaking the
 truth in love,
 we will in all
 things grow up
 into him who is
 the Head, that
 is, Christ.



WITNESSING

- ☐ Witnessing about Jesus should be the natural overflow of the heart:
 - > Acts 3:20 "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."
- □ Don't quarrel, but instruct gently
 - ➤ 2 Tim 2:23-25 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth

WITNESSING

- ☐ Your speech should be seasoned with salt. Be gracious to unbelievers.
 - Col 4:5-6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
- ☐ Resolve to be an example to others
 - > 1 Tim 4:12b ... set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.
- We are ambassadors we speak on behalf of Christ. So speak as if speaking the very words of God
 - > 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.

ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

- ☐ Are your speech and thoughts acceptable to God?
 - Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 Be acceptable in Your sight,
 O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer. (NASB)
 - Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

JUDGEMENT

- ☐ Always remember that we will be judged by our words:
 - Matt 12:36-37 "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."
- ☐ So be gracious, kind and show mercy to others in your speech; one day you'll require mercy when you are judged:
 - James 2:2 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!



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