

When Words Matter Most

- I. Introduction

- II. The Call to Speak
 - A. We belong to one another.

 - B. We all speak, but what do we say?
 - 1. We could speak hurtful words.
 - 2. We should speak appropriate words.
 - a. Wise words. Col. 1:28 3:16
 - b. Kind words. Prov. 31:26
 - c. Truthful words. Eph. 4:15

 - C. We have three goals for our words. Eph. 4:12-13
 - 1. Unity of the faith.
 - 2. Knowledge of the Son of God.
 - 3. Christlike maturity. 1 Cor. 11:1 Eph. 4:15 Rom. 8:29

- III. Those We Love
 - A. We are called to bear one another's burdens. Eccl. 4:9-10 Gal. 6:2 John 13:34-35

 - B. Know the one you love. 1 Thess. 5:14
 - 1. Is she unruly?
 - 2. Is she fainthearted?
 - 3. Is she weak? Ezek. 34:16

- IV. The Greater Grace Col. 4:6 Prov. 16:24
 - A. We need to experience God's grace before we can tell others. John 1:16 Titus 2:11-14
 - 1. Jesus embodied grace.
 - 2. Meditate on who Jesus is and what he has done.

 - B. Grace that saves. Jesus brought salvation to you in order to redeem you from all lawlessness. Titus 2:11, 14
 - 1. Jesus saves/justifies. Eph. 1:7
 - 2. Salvation is a gift. Eph. 2:8-9

 - C. Grace that sanctifies. Titus 2:11-12
 - 1. Jesus trains us how to live. Phil. 1:6
 - 2. Sanctification is a gracious gift. Phil. 2:12-13

 - D. Grace glorifies. Titus 2:11-15
 - 1. Jesus will bring us to glory. Rom. 8:30 1 Cor. 2:9
 - 2. Glorification is a blessed gift. Phil. 3:20-21 2 Cor. 4:16

V. The Gracious Friend

A. The character of a gracious friend.

1. A gracious friend is Spirit-filled. Rom. 8:13 Col. 3:16
2. A gracious friend is humble. Phil. 2:3-4 Rom. 12:16 1 Cor. 13:4b-5
3. A gracious friend is loyal. Prov. 20:6 Rom. 12:15 1 Cor. 13:7-8

B. The conversation of a gracious friend. Prov. 27:9

1. A gracious friend speaks with self-control.
 - a. She thinks before she speaks. Prov. 13:3
 - b. She unifies people with her words. Eph. 4:3
 - c. She is trustworthy. Prov. 11:13
2. A gracious friend speaks with wisdom. Prov. 31:26
 - a. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Prov. 1:7
 - b. Wisdom comes from studying the Scriptures. Prov. 2:6
 - c. She prays for more wisdom. Ps. 119:18 1 Kings 3:10-12
3. A gracious friend speaks with hope. Prov. 10:28 1 Pet. 1:13 Heb. 10:23 Isa. 40:31

C. The conduct of a gracious friend. James 3:13

1. A good friend listens. Prov. 18:13 Prov. 20:5
2. A gracious friend forgives. I Cor. 13:7 Prov. 19:11 Eph. 4:32 Matt. 18:33 1 Pet. 4:8
3. A gracious friend serves. Gal. 5:13-14 Mark 10:45 Rom. 5:8 Heb. 13:16

VI. Conclusion: Your words matter. I John 4:7, 11