

Sunday, March 31, 2019—Body Building: Corrupt Communication

Introduction

- I Timothy 4:8—we are currently in a series on Body Building or building up the body of Christ.
- I Thessalonians 5:11—Paul instructs members of the body of Christ to “edify one another” or build one another up.
 - Ephesians 4:16—this is how the body of Christ was designed to edify itself in love. As the members in particular of the body Christ edify one another the entire body is strengthened and built up.
- Romans 12:5—in the first segment of this series we looked at all the one-anothering statements (17 statements in total) found in Paul’s epistles. In doing so, we learned a lot about how believers should and should not treat one another.
- Romans 14:19—the second segment of this series is devoted to looking at things that make for peace among the brethren and edify the body of Christ.
- Romans 12:17-21—the last two weeks we have been looking at the issue of conflict resolution. What do we do when we can’t live peaceably with someone? Last week during our time together I sought lay out some scriptural guidelines for how to handle these types of difficult circumstances.
 - Psalms 104:9—if you are going to reengage with someone you need to set up clearly established boundaries for the relationship.

Corrupt Communication

- Ephesians 4:29-31—evil speaking does not make for peace among the saints. Evil speaking takes away peace and doesn’t edify.
 - *Corrupt*—rotten, putrefied, 2) corrupted by one and no longer fit for use, worn out, 3) of poor quality, bad, unfit for use, worthless
 - *Edifying*—building up, the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness
 - *Evil Speaking*—slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name, 2) impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty.

- In a recent poll, adults said they had gotten over most of the physical pains of childhood. But many had never fully recovered from the hurtful words, names, and labels that had been placed on them. Physical wounds heal, as is evidenced from the scars we carry. But verbal wounds frequently refuse to close, oozing pain and keeping us tender and vulnerable.
 - Job 19:2
- Matthew 12:36—idle words come from the following sources:
 - Stress of everyday life, causes of the say things we don't mean
 - Exposure to negative speech patterns: angry boss, parent, crude language in TV, Music, movies, and video games
 - Sarcastic Conversation
 - Idle chatter
- The problem is that such verbal habits are highly contagious. Our tongues often recycle the input and to our chagrin, the destructive words are out of our mouths before we know it.
- Our tongue affects our relationship with those we treasure the most as well as our relationship with ourselves.
- Therefore, we need to begin by confronting the truth about what God says resided in our tongues.

Principle 1: Controlled Speech Is a Measure of Maturity

- James 3:2
- Offend—means to cause one to stumble or fall, to stumble i.e. to err, make a mistake, to sin, to fall into misery, become wretched
- Feet that stumble can bring you whole body crashing to the ground, and a tongue that offends is no less a threat. Therefore, an offending tongue reflects spiritual immaturity.
- Perfect—literally means complete or mature.
- The implication is clear; we are never spiritually mature until we no longer trip people up with our words.
- Proverbs 10:32
- Matthew 12:34

- Luke 6:45—how we talk and what comes out of our mouths is a reflection upon the condition of heart and our inner man.
- That is why controlled speech is a measure of maturity.

Principle 2: The Tongue is Small but Significant

- James 3:3-5
- Small words have started wars, resulting in thousands of lives lost. How many marriage and relationships that once set sail on a joyous adventure had been steered onto the rocks by a faulty rudder?
- We tend to think that small things are insignificant. How can a few words do serious damage? But ignoring the problem is like ignoring termites nesting in your house.

Principle 3: Our Words Are Potentially Combustible

- James 3:6
- We tend to tolerate a bit of fire in our speech, thinking it can do no harm. But fire spread quickly—often before you realize it. After a raging fire has done its damage it doesn't matter whether or not it was intentional.
- *Iniquity*—injustice, uprightness
- *Setteth on fire*—to ignite, to burn up, to operate destructively, that of which the destructive influences are kindled.
- *Course*—is defined as a wheel
- Matthew 15:11-20
- Just as Mrs. O'Leary's cow burned down the city of Chicago in 1871 so our mouths contain the same destructive capacity.
- The seriousness of the tongue's destructive potential is revealed in the truth that "it is set on fire of hell." It is a world of iniquity, literally an entire network of sin. We have an organized crime syndicate right in our mouths. Our tongues have the capacity to corrupt our entire beings. Nothing is exempt from the damage our tongues can cause.
- The remaining principles concerning the tongue are covered in the next Lesson