

Sunday, May 26, 2019—Body Building: Corrupt Communication, Part 8 (Contentious Speech)

Introduction

- 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.
- Ephesians 4:29-31—evil speaking does not make for peace among the saints. Evil speaking takes away peace and doesn't edify. Thus far, we have considered the following categories of corrupt communication and evil speaking.
- Ephesians 4:25—within the context of Ephesians 4 Paul deals with lying and truth telling. Lying is to be “put away” whereas speaking the truth is to be “put on.” The reason we should speak the truth is that “we are members one of another.”
- Ephesians 4:30—malicious speech comes from the central source of all sin—the promotion of self. Under the category we have looked at the catastrophic cousins of gossip and slander
- Today we are going to be looking at a third category of corrupt communication and evil speaking, namely *angry words* and the sins of Murmuring and Contentious Words.
- We use *angry words* for several different reasons. Here is a short list of the most common reasons for our verbal outbursts:
 - **Anger:** is like an inner explosion searching for an outlet. A common escape is the tongue.
 - **Irritation:** sharp words often result from irritation that is produced when people interrupt or interfere with our well-ordered lives.
 - **Disappointment:** unrealized expectation or misplaced dependencies are painful, and our disappointment often shows up in our speech.
 - **Impatience:** an impatient spirit tends to let loose verbal outbursts before giving the situation appropriate thought.
 - **Stress:** people on emotional overload tend to have shorted verbal fuses than those who live in an organized, relaxed environment.
 - **Insecurity:** people often resort to sharp, intimidating, or critical words in order to project a sense of strength and security.
 - **Guilt:** when guilty people are confronted, they often respond sharply.

- Scripture indicates that these root issues surface in our speech in two general ways. One the verbal sin of murmuring. The other is called a contentious tongue.

The Contentious Tongue

- Contentious tongues create strife, resentment, and division in any relationship. The Scriptures describe the contentious tongues by using words like *contention*, *strife*, *quarreling*, and *debating*.
- Consider the meaning of the following words:
 - **Contention**—strife; struggle; a violent effort to obtain something, or to resist a person, claim or injury; contest; quarrel. Strife in words or debate; quarrel; angry contest; controversy (I Corinthians 1:11, Titus 3:9).
 - **Strife**—exertion or contention for superiority; contest of emulation, either by intellectual or physical efforts. Contention in anger or enmity; contest; struggle for victory; quarrel or war (I Corinthians 3:3, Philippians 2:3).
 - **Quarreling**—disputing with vehemence or loud angry words; scolding; wrangling; fighting; finding fault; disagreeing (Colossians 3:13).
 - **Debate**—Romans 1:29, II Corinthians 20:12
- There are many causes for a contentious tongue:
 - Hatred—Proverbs 10:12
 - Pride—Proverbs 13:10
 - Hot Temper—Proverbs 15:18
 - Nagging—Proverbs 21:9, 19
 - Those who tarry long at wine—Proverbs 23:29-30
 - Arrogance—Proverbs 28:25
 - Anger—Proverbs 30:33
 - A desire for position and prestige—Luke 22:24, Matthew 20:20-28
- The most serious result of a contentious tongue is the division and discord it creates.
 - Proverbs 6:16-19
 - I Corinthians 12:25
- Galatians 5:15—members of the body of Christ need to stop canalizing one another with our words. Division among the brethren destroys our testimony and our capacity for one-anothering. The phrase “divide and conquer” has spiritual validity. Division among God’s people gives Satan a tremendous advantage in squelching our usefulness, joy, and peace. The destructive influence

of murmuring, contentious words must be exchanged for words that produce confidence in Christ and encouragement to His people.

- Ephesians 4:29—our speech needs to ministry grace and edify.