

# War of the WORDS

*Week 4 – Saying Something Different ~ speaking positive words*

*October 1, 2006*

Our Calling as Christ-followers...

*Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. ...Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 11, 14 & 15 (884)*

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun! And all this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 17 & 18 (884)*

*And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling people to himself.... And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ...! 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 18 - 20 (884)*

1. My speech needs to show that I have a clear understanding of what it is to be an ambassador!

- As an ambassador, I have been called out of my home (*heaven*), to live on earth & represent my King!
- I have been placed exactly where God wants me so I can speak for him!
- Dead & gone are the days when I lived for myself...now I live, speak for, & represent Jesus in everything! I am not free to advance my own interests or my own agenda!
- I am never off duty. This is never a part-time job. I am always at work!

As an ambassador, my speech must ALWAYS represent Jesus!

- How would Jesus respond to this person / situation, not just in words, but in actions as well?
- Do my words / actions capture the passion & values of Jesus?
- Do my words / actions represent the character of Jesus?
- *Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians chapter 3 verses 12 - 14 (904)*

(over)

2. My speech needs to show that I have a clear understanding of the King's mission!

***Jesus died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ.... 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 15 (884)***

- God's mission is to change hearts, because all words & actions flow from my heart - ***Jesus said, "For whatever is in your heart determines what you say."*** Matthew chapter 12 verses 34-36 (743)
- So, as Christ's ambassador, I need to focus on the heart (*spiritual*) and not the outward expression of the heart (*material*)

When I speak to others, do my words / actions...

- focus on the outward stuff (the stuff that's seen) or on the heart itself?
- address the heart & thus move the individual towards full-devotion in Christ?
- reflect true love for the individual by addressing the real heart issues that person struggles with?
- look past the failure and focus instead to the character flaw in the heart that needs to be addressed?
- seek to partner with the ongoing work of God in the life of the person by cooperating with God to bring about heart change?

3. My speech needs to reflect the King's methods!

- I don't speak out of anger or hostility ~ *Proverbs 15:1*
- I don't use guilt or manipulation to get my way, instead, I am driven by love ~ *2 Corinthians 5:14*
- I bless those who mistreat me ~ *Romans 12:14*
- I freely extend forgiveness ~ *Luke 17:4*
- I respond to evil with good ~ *Romans 12:21*
- Instead of revenge, I seek peace ~ *Romans 12:17-20*
- When provoked, I respond with humility & gentleness ~ *Ephesians 4:2*
- When I am offended, I go to the person instead of waiting for the person to come to me ~ *Matthew 18:15-17*
- Before the end of each day, I seek to be restored with everyone ~ *Ephesians 4:26-27*
- I listen more than I speak ~ *James 1:19*
- I choose not to respond in the heat of the moment ~ *Proverbs 15:28*

***Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.***

*Ephesians chapter 5 verse 1 (897)*

*This study is based on book War of Words, by Paul David Tripp.*

***Next week we begin our new study, "A Fresh Start with God ~ beginning again, moving forward" by looking at the questions, "Where do I start with God? and "Does God even care about me?"***