

INTRODUCTION

Review: Being the body; last week what we think about one another, this week what we say to one another

EXPOSITION

I. POSITIVELY

1.) Speak

- Eph5:19 speaking to one another; the force of command; the content follows, but the basic premise is that God's people communicate regarding especially God's truth; evidence of being filled with the Spirit
- Mt9:32 (illustr.) demon possession brought silence, and the evidence of its being cast out was that he spoke
- Failure/refusal to communicate, shutting down of the “lines” are all devices of the evil one, because no problems can be solved nor the following things done without speaking; keep clear anything that would separate, seek to keep lines open;

2.) Teach

- Col3:16 (Gk. didasko) provide instruction in either formal or informal setting;
 - though there are special gifts of teachers, those don't negate ALL of God's people teaching and learning from one another Act2:17; this should humble us to learn from all of God's people, from even “newly born”
 - the prerequisite is the Word of Christ inhabiting one's heart in abundance

3.) Admonish

- Rom15:14 (Gk. notheteo) give instructions regarding belief and connected behavior; this includes teaching, but moves beyond to urging to obedience and change
 - This is where we get “nouthetic counseling”; more than Gnostic Christianity concerned only with doctrine, but moving into right behavior
 - This is something Paul was confident all Christians could and should do

4.) Comfort

- 1Thes4:18 (Gk. parakaleo) this word has varied meanings, but in this context carries the idea of comforting, encouraging or consoling in the light of difficult circumstances (loss of beloved believers by death)
 - 2Cor1:3ff it is through the comfort we receive by God's truth that we are able to help others in their trials
 - God is the one who Himself is the God of comfort v.3

5.) Edify

- 1Thes5:11 (Gk. oikodomeo) strengthen, build up, rebuild, restore; Illustr: restoration of weak and crumbling building
 - when teaching/instruction given, it isn't with an indifferent attitude as to their condition, but with a wise construction worker; not a sledgehammer swung with indifference, but bracing, hammering, nailing, etc.
 - Mt12:20 Jesus would not break a bruised reed, nor quench smoking flax; being discerning in application
 - v.14 making distinction between peoples' spiritual condition; Gal6:1 restoration in gentleness

6.) Exhort

- Heb3:13 (Gk. parakaleo) as opposed to #4, this has more of warning dimension; not to be hardened by unbelief and sin; this is to be done daily, with frequent contact with one another also 13:22
 - Heb 10:25 in relation to corporate gathering

7.) Confess

- In the light of such interaction, there WILL be sins; we will say the wrong things, sometimes the right things in the wrong way; we will misjudge or speak wrongly; on the receptive end we will not be as teachable as we should be
- Jm5:16 (Gk. exomologeio) admit, acknowledge; (Gk. hamartia) sin or guilt; humility and need for forgiveness
 - Not just saying sorry, but confessing sin and God's displeasure; coupled with forgiveness Col3:13

- these are commands for all of God's people; this is a functioning and growing body of Christ

II. NEGATIVELY

1.) Lie

- Col3:9 (Gk. pseudomai) speak falsehood or untruth, that which one knows not to be kata truth
 - Outright lie to avoid shame of sin or weakness; also exaggeration/embellishment to make one look good

2.) Provoke

- Gal5:26 (Gk. prokoloumenoi) provoke to irritation or to purposefully make angry; in this context it is coupled with conceit, most likely expressed in words

3.) Speak Evil

- Jm4:11 (Gk. katalaleo) say bad things against, slander, defame; unnecessary speech resulting in the lowering of another's esteem and put blemish on their reputation
 - It could be outright lies, or speaking of another's sin against you
 - General principle: “is this person a part of the problem or solution?”

4.) Grumble

- Jm5:9 (Gk. stenadzo) complain strongly, sigh, groan; it is to have a grouching complaining spirit against the brethren

APPLICATION**1.) As Christians, we must take seriously these directives**

- In the church Gal5:15 bite and devour; “Christian cannibalism”; Jms 3:10 out of same mouth...these things ought not to be so
- in the family (to spouse or to children); this is one of the greatest family and marriage destroyers: ungodly communication
 - Jm1:26 the bridled tongue; to be grateful for the cleanings power of Christ for ALL sin
 - Gal5:22 fruit of the Spirit is self-control, the ability to control our speech is ours in Christ
- As parents, we must train our children in proper speech
 - By our own example; by our direction of them, particularly toward siblings and classmates and teachers

2.) As those who must face judgement, you should take seriously the sins of your tongue

- Mt12:35-37 every idle word men (not just Christians) may speak