

# WORDS

OF

# CONSEQUENCE

BY CONRAD BARRETT

Kind words - Gentle words - Sincere words - Hurtful words - Powerful words - Encouraging words - Destructive words

What do YOUR WORDS say about you?

Is YOUR WORD good?

The human family has been equipped with an amazing gift of speech. Not only do we have special abilities to think and reason, our communication abilities exceed all other species of God's creation.

Unlike animals and other creations, the human being has a grammar. Language is a constant with all creations, but people can articulate and write their thoughts and words. What a difference!

Words, as a subject, are frequently mentioned in the Bible and are so important that Jesus not only used them wisely, but instructed His followers as to how they should use them, too. When He was speaking about words as they relate to actions and performance, He was addressing the Pharisees and Saducees. His message was "For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:37.

Jesus made it clear that whatever comes out of our mouths in the formation of words, whether good or bad, the speaker is responsible for the contents. Whenever used unwisely, words can cause divisions in homes, churches, courts, as well as in many other places and have actually been instrumental in starting wars. Words, however, can be used to bless and encourage, but the direction in which words are aimed rests with the speaker.

The tongue has unique powers. With the tongue people can be helped, but the same tongue can be emotionally destructive as well. Individuals are endowed with discretionary abilities and any usage of this special instrument called the tongue should be with respect and caution. Remember the tongue has amazing power and can enhance or damage relationships.

The wise man, King Solomon, used many words very carefully. It was he who said, "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Proverbs 25:11. Most people like good things said about them and want the same for the people and things they care about. King Solomon realized the importance of good language skills and used such skills as instruments for blessing others. It is also made clear by others in the scriptures that the usage of any words framed in any setting which creates a false impression or leads anyone to believe anything that is

not true, is deceptive and wrong. Such bad usage is a theme used throughout the Bible.

Words used to create any sense of deception translates in Bible language as not only being expressions of duplicity, but also expressions of lying. Lying is a sin and is of such importance that the Ten Commandments forbid it. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” is the language of Commandment nine. Exodus 20:16.

In the New Testament Paul wrote a letter to the Colossians and included lying as a part of that context. In Chapter three of that letter he wrote, “lie not one to another...” Any form of lying is misrepresentation of truth and our Lord forbids such.

There are many references throughout the Bible about lying, but the student of the Bible will note that one of the last messages in the Bible addresses this subject. In reference to those not admitted to the Holy City and are “without are dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” Revelation 22:15.

A recurring theme of the Bible makes it very clear that lying in any form is a sin and the consequences of such usage will be severe. The truth is a much better product. It has been said that one can lock doors to keep away thieves, but no lock system can stop the tongue of a liar.

Since the creation of the man, Adam, and the Garden of Eden experience, mankind has used deception in various ways. Never has it advantaged anyone. The cost of such behavior has been great. Volumes could be written about the moral and emotional effect it has had upon individuals and generations which have followed. Only God has kept the record straight.

The same mouth which can create deceit and trouble can also produce goodness and blessings and our tongues should be used to encourage and bless, never the opposite.

Christians should engage themselves in what is right and should speak the truth and never become a party to any deceptive behavior or practice. Truth is based on the principle of what is right and never should be based on hearsay or imagination. Fact is always better than an irrational notion.

One should be careful with any word usage, even when a message of truth is involved. Emotional damage done by careless speaking can linger for a life time and once words are spoken can never be recalled. Whether used in the form of the very best of intentions or in the framework of gossip, backbiting or gist, the party who may suffer injury may be more fragile than one thinks. It could cost one or several their entrance into heaven.

Words are powerful and have consequences and are subject to interpretation. Their influence can have an eternal bearing; therefore, let us speak kindly and gently and do so in love.

The usage of words in almost any setting is peculiar to the context in which they are said. Sometimes, gesturing and posturing communicate more than actual

words themselves. In truth, many times, messages are sent by saying or writing nothing. Such communication transmits thoughts in silence, but the message is still delivered.

The spirit in which words are spoken bears heavily upon what is communicated. For instance a mean spirited person may want to make a statement without describing the person targeted for that reference. The opposite is true for the good-spirited person who wishes to communicate something good. Context and delivery along with the spirit or attitude of the person who delivers relates directly to the issue.

Much can be said about words and how they are used as well as how they affect people, but beyond the word usage of any mortal, there is God's word.

Different from what men and women say, and looking beyond the text of human conversations and implications, the words of our Lord have life. They speak to our hearts as well as our minds. Jesus made it clear that His words are words of life. Read them carefully. John 6:63.

From our tongues should flow good words, never evil, never profane, never ill-willed, just good, positive and encouraging words. Words like deeds have a way of touching us both positively and adversely. We may meet them again someday; therefore, we should choose them carefully.

For Brochure Copies Contact:  
Christian Chapel Church  
4043 Chandler Road  
Muskogee, OK 74403  
(918) 687-1606  
[cb1@emptychair.net](mailto:cb1@emptychair.net)

*Designed by Pamela A. Gilfillan*