

GODLY LIVING

(Our speech)

INTRODUCTION:

A. Introduction to godly living, our Christian conduct

1. What is Christianity? In order to answer this question let me point out what Christianity is not:
 - a. Christianity is not a dream
 - b. Christianity is not a concept
 - c. Christianity is not a theory

B. Godly living

1. Who is your model in life? Mom, dad, movie-star, the greatest athlete in the world, etc
2. Whose character are you going to imitate friends, family member? What about their speech?
3. The way we communicate things, that is what we say, our speech is important. The way we talk and how we handle ourselves in certain situations portray our very character; it reveals what is in our hearts.

C. The purpose of this sermon:

1. Being imitators of God
2. Choosing our words correctly
3. The consequences of our speech
4. Cleaning up our speech

I. BEING IMITATORS OF GOD

A. The highest standard there is...

1. –

B. The example of Jesus

1. Self control, obedience (**Isa. 53:7, 9; Matt. 26:63, 67-68**)
2. Humility (**Phil. 2:6-8**)
3. Forgiving (**Ephesians 4:32**)
4. His love manifested in giving Himself as an offering and sacrifice to God (**Ephesians 5:1-2**)

II. CHOOSING OUR WORDS CORRECTLY

A. The way we communicate with others, our speech and choosing our words requires forethought

1. It requires a careful thought on what we say before we speak (**Proverbs 15:28**)
2. The Christian should be concern with what we say and how we say it
 - a. In situations when there is a confrontation with others, a kind word will subdue the other (**Proverbs 15:1**)
 - b. Spoken at the right moment (**Proverbs 25:11**)

B. Our speech should be for edification

1. Words that will encourage, that will lead to edification at the right moment (**Ephesians 4:29**)
2. Speech that will bring grace, goodwill, loving-kindness to others (**Colossians 4:6**)
 - a. And will be a delight for those who will hear them (**Proverbs 15:4, 23**)

C. Examples of unacceptable speech

1. Speech which is immoral or impure (**Ephesians 5:3-4**), notice the following words in verse 4:
 - a. Such as “filthiness” – Anything that is obscene, vulgar, immoral, dirty and indecent in our speech or even in the way we act and think.
 - b. “Silly talk” – It is godless speech that has no base no firm foundation, that has no thought and wisdom behind, just like the talk of a wicked who says there is no God (**Psalm 14:1**)
 - c. “Coarse jesting” – *“The sense of the word here is polished and witty speech as the instrument of sin; refinement and versatility without the flavor of Christian grace. Sometimes it is lodged in a sly question, in a smart answer, in a quirkish reason, in shrewd intimation, in cunningly diverting or cleverly retorting an objection: sometimes it is couched in a bold scheme of speech, in a tart irony, in a lusty hyperbole, in a startling metaphor, in a plausible reconciling of contradictions, or in acute nonsense”* – (Vincent, e-sword edition). It is also double talk or speech with double meaning where it can be obscene, immoral. It is vulgar and unclean speech; it is lack of moral purity a worldly sense of humor. A worldly sense of humor that makes fun makes sport or ridicules at the expense of others (just like the comedians of today).
2. It can also be using the Lord’s name in vain (**Exodus 20:7**)
 - a. Not give God’s name or Jesus’ name any reverence, that is when cursing or simply swearing
 - b. Why? Because Jesus’ name should be held in honor (**Philippians 2:9-11**)
3. Speaking evil of others
 - a. Those in high places, authorities (**Exodus 22:28; Jude 8**)
 - b. To create strife among by way of gossip (**Proverbs 16:27-28; 26:20-22**)
4. Speech that is unwholesome (**Ephesians 4:29**)
 - a. Speech that is corrupt, bad and contaminated with filthiness.
 - b. Can also be euphemisms (An inoffensive expression substituted for one considered offensive), such is the case for the following words: **darn, shoot, gosh** and **gee**
 - c. What is wrong when we use these expressions? – They mean the same thing as the more offensive words, it is the same wrongful expression behind in what we are trying to convey as the original sinful words.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SPEECH**A. We will give an account on every idle word we speak (Matthew 12:33-37)**

1. Our words, our actions are going to be taken into account in the day of judgment!
2. God does pay attention to our speech

IV. CLEANING UP OUR SPEECH**A. It begins with what we store in our heart (Matthew 12:35)**

1. It is not a momentary thing, “watch what you say, the preacher is here” (example of secular work)
2. It starts with the renewing of our mind, our heart
 - a. Crucifying our old self and living a new life
 - b. Acknowledging that those things are against God’s will and divine standard

B. Filling our mind our heart with positive things

1. We have a choice! It is a matter of making the right choice
 - a. Television shows, magazines, radio and our association with others
 - b. “A Christian should be pure in his conversation. His Master was pure. His God is pure. The heaven to which he goes is pure. The religion which he professes is pure. Never should he indulge himself in an obscene allusion: never should he retail anecdotes of an obscene

character, or smile when they are retailed by others. Never should he indulge in a jest having a double meaning; never should he listen to a song of this character. If those with whom he associates have not sufficient respect for themselves and him to abstain from such corrupt and corrupting allusions, he should at once leave them.” (Barnes, e-sword edition)

- 1) Meaning, staying away from such un-godly behavior
 - 2) Example of secular work, filthy comments, dirty jokes
2. Meditate upon things that are worthy of praise (**Philippians 4:8-9**)
 - a. Rather, being thankful to God

C. The end result

1. Will receive blessing from the Lord (**1 Peter 3:8-12**)
2. Taking from (**Psalm 34:12-14**)
 - a. Notice the question David makes in verse **12**
 - b. Notice the answer in the following verses **13-14**

CONCLUSION:

A. –

*Victor Alvarado
Hermiston, OR
USA*