

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:25-32**.
- B. What we say is very powerful. Words can be very up-building and can also be very destructive.
- C. The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" is not true. Reputations and careers can be ruined by lies, slander, and other harmful words.
- D. As we talk with other let me suggest three rules or "gates" that our speech needs to pass, in order to be spoken.

## I. GATE #1: IS IT **TRUTHFUL**?

- A. See Eph. 4:25,29b.  
Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. **29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification** according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- B. To lie is to know the truth, and purposely mislead.
- C. The Bible has much to say about being truthful. Lying is a sin. Some world religions allow lies in certain circumstances; but the Bible does not.
- D. It is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18). We can always trust in what He says.  
in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.
- E. The opposite of that is Satan, who always lies (Jn. 8:44).  
"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."
- F. JC spoke on behalf of the Father. Jesus called Himself "...the truth..." (Jn. 14:6).  
Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
- G. Some examples of lying are found in the Bible:
  - 1. Satan told the biggest lie of all (Gen. 3:4).  
And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!"
  - 2. Ananias & Sapphira (Ac. 5:1-11).
  - 3. The old prophet lied to the young prophet (1Kgs. 13:18).
  - 4. Israel lied about the nature of God [that He would not destroy] (Jer. 5:11-12).  
"For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," declares the LORD. **12** They have lied about the LORD And said, "Not He; Misfortune will not come on us; And we will not see sword or famine."
- H. There is no such thing as a "half-truth" or a lie. Either you tell the truth or you don't.
- I. Rev. 21:8, 15 tells us what will happen to those who lie and practice falsehood.  
"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." **15** And the one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

## II. GATE #2: IS IT **NEEDFUL**?

- A. See Eph. 4:29c.  
Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- B. One of the most important questions to ask ourselves, and is often unasked about our words is, "Is it needful?"
- C. Choosing what to say, and to whom, and at what time is most important.
- D. There is a time for:
  - 1. Yelling, and a time for speaking softly.

- 2. Being angry (4:26) with words, and a time to be humble.
- 3. Flippancy and humorous kidding, and a time to be serious.
- E. That which you say may be truthful, but is not always needful.

### III. GATE #3: IS IT **KIND**?

- A. See Eph. 4:29d.  
*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, **that it may give grace to those who hear.***
- B. Even when a person tells the truth, it can hurt if not said correctly. We need to learn to be kind with our words.
- C. Someone once said, *"I'm gonna give them a piece of my mind!"* To which I replied, "Not too much, you don't have a lot to spare."
- D. We are not to return evil for evil. If we are sinned against, this does not give me the right to be ugly in return. James speaks of making our words run true (see Jas. 3:9-13).
- E. The apostle Paul lists some 23 sins in Rom., chapter 1 and some of them have to do with the tongue. He forbids malice, gossip, slander, and arrogance (Rom. 1:29-30).  
*being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,*
- F. When dealing with a person caught in a sin or trespass, it is best to always be kind. A fault-finder or someone who is very blunt may be truthful, but not always kind (Gal. 6:1).  
*Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.*
- G. Solomon said that a gentle answer turns away wrath (Prov. 15:1).  
*A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.*

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What we say is so powerful. We can build up or tear down so quickly by what, how, and when we say it.
- B. Let your words pass through all three of these gates (tests) before you say anything:
  - 1. Is it the truth (edifying)?
  - 2. Is it needful for the moment?
  - 3. Is it kind (giving grace)?
- C. One of the most important things you can say is your confession of Jesus as the X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.