

out of control (James 3:6-8).

The uncontrolled tongue has an unlimited destructive potential! The Rabbis say that the tongue is more dangerous than the hand: the hand kills only at close range but the tongue can kill at a distance.

Only God can successfully master man and his tongue!

Pious words on Sunday do not offset the gossip on Monday, the profanity on Tuesday, the angry words on Wednesday, the slanderous words on Thursday, the arrogance on Friday or the godless chatter on Saturday!

We should strive to be like Job and NOT like his “friends” (Job 16:1-5).

Listen to Proverbs’ wisdom on the untamed tongue:

- ◆ Proverbs 11:9, “With his mouth the godless person destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be rescued.”
- ◆ Proverbs 12:18, “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
- ◆ Proverbs 15:1, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- ◆ Proverbs 15:4, “A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.”

Listen to Proverbs’ wisdom on the tamed tongue:

- ◆ Proverbs 10:21, “The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.”
- ◆ Proverbs 12:18, “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
- ◆ Proverbs 15:1, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- ◆ Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

**We were created to communicate so our words would encourage, build up, constructively direct choices and lovingly confront with God’s Word.**



## **Lesson One: Created to Communicate Dalraida Church of Christ**

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*“For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart” (Matthew 12:34).*

### **Communication is critical in civilization**

Communication is a lifelong learning exercise that is often marred by failure. Some will admit their failure, but others never admit their failure—they justify their failure and project blame and wrong on others. Have you known some who refuse to say “I’m sorry. I should not have said that.” “Words” surround us. Joyful words, sad words, shy words, arrogant words, healing words, painful words, pious words, profane words are all a part of daily existence. Some can never be satisfied with words—no matter what you say, it is always heard wrong and constantly judged in a negative way (I Corinthians 4:3).

Let them slice and dice you with their negativism; let them always see the bad that only they can see. Realize the Lord is hearing as well (James 5:9). The one who always quickly jumps, assuming you are the worse-never-do-anything-right person, fails to understand the basic principle of communication. Proverbs 15:4 18:21.

There are almost one-million words in the English language. These offer a stockpile for either tools for building and understanding or weapons for destroying and deceiving.

Communication is an inside-out process. Your words are the outer expressions of your inner self! (Luke 6:45) Your words are the windows of your character. Your tone of disgust, accusations, or of humility, love and desire to

communicate so others “see” who you are!

Your speech betrays your commitment to God. “(E)ven the way you talk gives you away” (Matthew 26:73).

Your communication is influenced by a number of variables (family dynamics; genetics; cultural upbringing; etc). BUT the fact remains, regardless of genetic proclivities or family dynamics, each is responsible for HOW they talk. They may reflect family dynamics, but they are personally responsible for their words!

### **Communication was “in the beginning.”**

The Bible begins and ends with communication! Throughout the Bible God’s “Word” was given for mankind to have peace and salvation with God. When God’s “Word” was modified, ignored or rejected, there was evil speech.

### **Communication is infected by sin.**

God’s communication is clear but man’s sinfulness garbles that clarity (Genesis 3). Communication breakdown occurs when sin enters because those involved in the communication process CHOOSE to follow sin.

Some are burdened by guilt; some are self-righteous never imagining that they are in the wrong; some are biased because of family involved; some refuse to accept personal responsibility for their tone of speech. Consequently yelling, accusations, projection of vile sin onto others, hysterics, etc., all erupt. Such is an ungodly environment!

Words are not insignificant. Following a harsh, bitter retort it is common to hear: “Oh, you just get your feelings hurt too easily!” “Well, you deserved that.” “Oh well, I was tired and you should just overlook what I do.” “I was just joking.” Never any personal apology—in fact there is often a deliberate resistance (hardhearted stubbornness) to confess personal failing by rationalizing and shrugging off the evil action.

Words reveal what is inside you. Words are a BIG SPIRITUAL deal. Words spoken rashly, rudely, selfishly create alienation. Some are so very pious as they look scornfully on profanity, but do so with words that are just as evil!

“But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 13:36-37).

Never minimize the significance of your words!

### **Communication sins in the Bible**

**ANGRY TALK**—words uttered in a fit of anger; a sudden outburst of wrathful

speech (2 Corinthians 12:20; Colossians 3:8).

**BOASTING, ARROGANT TALK**—bragging, conceit, self-centered, self-glorifying words and behavior (2 Timothy 3:2; James 4:16).

**BLASPHEMY**—speaking contemptuously of the Holy (1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Timothy 6:1).

**COARSE JOKING**—vulgar humor, mocking of human dignity (Ephesians 5:4).

**DECEPTION; DISTORTION**—mingling Truth with false ideas (2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2)

**FLATTERY**—excessive and untrue praise; insincere compliments to gain personal advantage (1 Thessalonians 2:5; Jude 16).

**GODLESS CHATTER**—profane and empty babbling; irrereligious, misleading or worthless words (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:16).

**GOSSIP**—spreading idle talk whether true or untrue; spreading rumors or personal information about others; betraying a confidence (2 Corinthians 12:20; 1 Timothy 5:13).

**LYING**—false statements deliberately spoken (Acts 5:4; Colossians 3:9).

**OBSCENITY**—using profane or vulgar language; unwholesome conversation (Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:8).

**QUARRELING**—heated words; strife; unkind arguments (1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:23-24).

**SLANDER**—damaging another’s reputation by speaking malicious or untrue things about them OR speaking the truth about a person but in a manner designed to ruin their reputation (Ephesians 4:31; James 4:11).

The common result when sin corrupts our communication—destruction!

- ◆ Trust is destroyed.
- ◆ Desire to continue communication is crushed.
- ◆ Reputations are destroyed.
- ◆ Love is destroyed.
- ◆ Respect for God and man is destroyed.

### **Communication guided by the Bible tames the tongue**

When is the last time you had an embarrassing “slip of the tongue?” When is the last time you “opened your mouth and inserted your foot?”

The Epistle of James uses strong metaphors describing a tongue that is willfully