

Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from August 28,

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Scripture of the Week



Proverbs 18:6-8

“A fool’s lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.”

The book of Proverbs has much to say about wise and foolish uses of the tongues that God has blessed us with. One of the most foolish and ungodly things we can ever do with our mouths is to use them for gossip. When we gossip about others we spread rumors about them or sensitive information of a personal nature, and slander their good name. Some people are more private than others, but I don’t think any of us like it when other people dig up the dirt in our lives and spread it around for others to hear. That is especially hurtful and harmful when brothers and sisters in Christ do so to each other. We really need to find better things to talk about than the mistakes and shortcomings of our family members in Christ. Even

if we’re not the type of people who normally spread gossip, it can often be very difficult to turn our ears away from it when others are spreading it. Solomon wrote that the words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels that go down deep into our bodies. That just means the juicy bits of info we hear about others can really taste good to us—that they can be pleasant to our ears. We need to learn to not take pleasure in the hardship of other people, and not give ear to the words of a whisperer. The word “whisperer” in the selected text is just another name for a “talebearer” or a “gossip”. A gossip can only do harm when he has someone to listen to his slander. Let’s determine to not dish out other people’s dirt or even listen to it!

Problems with Gossip

God warns us time and again in the Bible about the sin of gossip. Whether that word is actually used, or one of its sister words like “talebearer” or “whisperer” or “slanderer”, it becomes obvious fairly quickly that this is a serious problem in the eyes of our Creator. Let’s consider some of the problems that gossip can cause in our lives and in the lives of others. Proverbs 20:19 says that people who gossip reveal secrets. Have you ever entrusted someone with a secret that you didn’t want anyone else to know about, only to discover later that others knew and were even talking about it? If you have, you know just how hurtful that can be. People may start

treating you differently, or you may not feel welcome in certain circles, and it’s nearly impossible to ever again confide in the person who betrayed your trust. That’s exactly why Proverbs 17:9 says that *“He who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.”* Gossip destroys close friendships and keeps new relationships from forming. Referring to the same subject, Proverbs 16:28 says *“A perverse man spreads strife.”* God tells us about seven things that He particularly hates, and the worst of all is the *“one who spreads strife among brothers”* (Proverbs 6:16-19). Gossip causes contention between brothers and sister in Christ and it can rip a congregation to shreds

as fast as anything. Slander is the devil’s work and he wishes only dissension and division for us, but Christ died for us so that we could be united by the bonds of peace in His body. Lastly and most awfully, gossip will cause us to be lost if we don’t get a handle on it. In Romans 1:28-32, the Apostle grouped the sins of gossip and slander together with wickedness, murder, hatred of God, and a host of other despicable sins. He went on to write in verse 32, *“And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”*

Please Come Visit Us At...

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30

Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30

Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



Using Our Mouths Wisely

Preachers can focus so much on avoiding the sinful ways we are likely to talk, that we sometimes lose sight of all the good ways that God tells us to use our voices. While it's true that the proverb says there is "one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword," it is equally true that the same proverb says "the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18). God doesn't tell us to eliminate the negative without telling us how to replace it with the uplifting. Let's focus on some ways we can use our words wisely and cause blessings to abound. One of the best things we can do with our mouths is extol God's praises. Psalm 147:1 encourages us to "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant and praise is becoming." When we sing of His glory and praise

Him in prayer, we lift up our own hearts and the hearts of those listening. Praising God is always a profitable thing to do whether alone or in a crowd. Let God and the people around you know how much you love and appreciate Him. Another good thing we can do is just speak words of kindness to other people. Even if we need to correct someone for improper behavior, we can choose to select polite and unthreatening words to get our message across. Proverbs 15:2 says "The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable." People are not always going to want to hear everything we have to say to them. But if we can tell them what they need to know in a palatable, tactful way, it will be easier to accept than if we come across harshly. Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech

always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." One of the best ways to help people when we talk to them is to speak words of encouragement. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to encourage one another and build one another up. Harsh words have the tendency to tear people down and keep them from realizing their greatest potential in life. If we want our brethren to prosper socially and flourish spiritually, we should ever be looking for ways to build them up in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:26 puts it this way: "Let all things be done for edification." Everything that we do and say should be for the purpose of building one another up and lifting one another up. Let's use our mouths for construction, not demolition.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GERRY SANDUSKY

If you missed any of the lessons from our Gospel meeting of August 15-17, they are posted on our website at www.pvchurchofchrist.com. Click the tab that indicates that meeting, and you can either "left click" the "play" button and listen to the sermon from your computer, or you can "right click" and save that sermon to file and listen to it elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who attended and prayed for our special meeting.