

Session 19

Biblical Speech / Communication

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

"Watch Your Language!"

- What is the author's point about language? Why does he say the battle for the tongue is the battle for the Christian life? What does our language reveal about us (p.24)?
- What is the difference between obscene language and language that is evil because it expresses an unbiblical worldview (p.24)?
- How do many of the common expressions we use subtly agree with unbelieving ways of thinking (p.25)?
- How can we use language to minimize our responsibility for behavior? How does employing biblical language to communicate "hard things" to someone demonstrate kindness and love for that person?
- The author states how the world diverts attention from its sin by seeking neutral descriptions of sinful behavior (p.25). What does he mean? Are there such things as neutral experiences? How have you recently been tempted to do this?

- How does the story of the individual who lost his job illustrate the importance of biblical language? How does an awareness of the doctrine of God's sovereignty help bring a biblical interpretation?
- How is, "I'm bummed" not helpful in communicating what's going on in your life? What are some of the biblical terms that this expression could be describing?
- The author suggests that the Bible teaches that our deeds reveal our hearts (p.27) and then illustrates it with the story of Bob & Sue. Do you agree with his statement and conclusions about Sue? Is our behavior caused by the situation or our response to it?
- Since the gospel covers our sin and gives us power to change, why is it important to speak biblically? How do you want to change your speech as a result of reading this article? How can we help one another?

"Speaking Redemptively"

- In your own words, describe what it means to "speak redemptively".
- The author says that the problem in Sam and Belinda's relationship were fundamentally vertical (person-to-God). What does he mean?
- Why or how does my love for God always result in practical love toward my neighbor?

- Under #2 on p.14, the author lists a number of responses/desires that we often have when something goes wrong. Have you ever responded in these ways? What are some recent examples?
- Why is it so important to begin with self-examination (p.14)?
- How do we forsake living according to cravings in the sinful nature so that we might live for Christ (p.17)? How is this done? How have you cultivated this? How have you sought to teach this to others (e.g., spouse and family)?
- What areas of sin, what desires/cravings in your life are you currently committed to putting to death and living by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit? Do you have a long term view as you battle?
- What is a restorative view of relationships (section 8, p.17)? Did you find this perspective helpful? In what relationships do you need to change in applying this biblical truth?
- How can we become more outwardly focused and seek to help others (section 10, p.18)?

3. Exercise

Take some time to evaluate your speech and identify any areas where you can work to make changes to speak more biblically and redemptively.

4. Scripture Memory Verses

5. Assignment for Next Time

Read the articles "Discovering God's Will", by Sinclair Ferguson and "What is the Will of God and How Do We Know It?", By John Piper. Next meeting is

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