

The Tongue Isn't Neutral

by Tim Conway

This sermon emphasizes the power and impact of our words, highlighting the importance of being mindful of what we speak. It discusses how our speech reflects the condition of our hearts, revealing whether we are walking in the old man's ways or the new man's ways. The sermon warns against careless, frivolous, and harmful speech, urging listeners to speak words of grace and truth that honor God.

Scripture: Matthew 12:36, Proverbs 18:21, Ephesians 4:29, James 3:6, Proverbs 15:4, Colossians 4:6, Proverbs 21:23, Proverbs 10:19, Psalm 19:14

Topics: "The Power of Words", "Speaking with Grace and Truth"

Description

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Transcript

But the tongue of the old man, it could just simply be light, trivial, frivolous, careless. Have you ever heard our Lord talk? You know what? He doesn't say that on judgment day, you're going to be judged because of all the four-letter words that came out of your mouth. Isn't it amazing what He says? What are we going to be judged on? Every careless word.

How careless! Oh, you know, you know what's so characteristic of the old man? They just don't shut their mouths. They just talk all the time and it's careless. Their mouths just flow.

One of the things we recognize when God takes hold of a man or a woman is they tend not to talk as much as they did before because they start thinking a whole lot more before they talk. You think of the corruption that can come out. Talking to certain people... talking to certain people can be a total waste of time.

Why? Because it seems like every time you talk to them, it's careless, it's frivolous. You know what the thing about the tongue is? That every evil we can feel inside, every evil thought we can have inside has the ability to be expressed on the outside by the tongue. And so we're able to express pride, boastful, selfish, worldly, God-dishonoring.

And it doesn't matter that you're standing in a church building and you're talking to people who profess to be Christians. We can still whine to one another, complain, mumble, grumble. We're no better than the Hebrews out there in the wilderness.

You can display that you don't trust the Lord. Yes, you can speak falsehood. You can exaggerate, gossip, slander.

You can be devils. That's what the devil is. That's what slander is.

The way you are a devil or most like the devil is right here. That's what the word means, slander. You can express bitterness, anger.

People express their lack of ability to forgive. And it doesn't have to be, I'm not going to forgive them. It's just, it's tones, it's expressions, it's insinuations that you just pick up in people's voice.

We have ways of communicating. The whole picture, the expression on our face, the tone at which we say it, we all know that. But we can, oh, think of the amount of self-pity that people express with their voices.

The arrogance, the hardness of heart, lack of sympathy. People express doctrinal error, wrong views of God. They misapply Scripture.

People use their mouths to glorify ungodly preachers or ungodly singers or ungodly supposedly Christian YouTubers. You can just show an indifference to what's important by how you speak. You can show people that you treasure something besides God by how you speak.

You can blaspheme, curse, swear, express hatred, divisiveness, cruelty, lust, disrespect for authority, idolatry, greed, covetousness. Anything that's on the inside. And you know the thing about it is, you imagine those little fiber optic cords.

And they're shooting out when you open your mouth. And they never leave the hearer unaffected. And Paul doesn't even give you a middle category.

It's corrupt or it's good. And it's grace-giving. And that's the way, because one is old mannish ways.

One is new man. And there's no in-between. There's no neutral man.

There's no in-between man. That person doesn't exist. This excerpt is from the full sermon, Speaking Like No Other.

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