

A Recipe for Godly Speech

Colossians 4:6

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Introduction:

The average person in our culture has some seven hundred occasions to speak in a day.

- James 3:2 “If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.” (Jas. 3:2)
- Matt. 12:34, 36 “...the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart...every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.” (Matthew 12:34, 36) cf. James 3:2-10
- Proverbs 18:1 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Proverbs 18:1
- Psalm 12:4 “With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?”
- Isaiah 6:5 “Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips...”

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” (cf. Col. 3:8-10, 17)

I. Our Speech is to be Sweetened with Grace

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace...”

- Psalm 119:103 “How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”
- Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”
- Proverbs 27:9 “Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man’s counsel is sweet to his friend.”
- Luke 4:16, 22 “And He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read...And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, ‘Is this not Joseph’s son?’”

I want my speech sweetened with the graciousness of Christ!

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no unwholesome (Greek: *sapros* = rotten, putrid, foul) word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it will give grace to those who hear.”

The Taste Test For Gracious Speech (Ephesians 4:29)

Taste Test Question #1. Is what I am about to say good for edification?

Eph. 4:29 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification...”

- Is it intended to build up or destroy?
- Does it lash out to hurt or to restore?
- Is it good for their emotional and spiritual progress?
- Am I about to attack the person or the problem?
- Does what I am about to say bring hope for resolution of the problem?
- Will these words feed the person’s soul or starve him/her? (Prov. 10:21)
- Am I about to use loaded words? (Gal. 5:15)
- Am I just digging up the dirt? (Prov. 16:27)

Taste Test Question #2. Is what I am about to say according to the need of the moment?

Eph. 4:29 “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 . . .”

- Is what I am about to say fitting for the occasion?
- Is it timely?
- Does it really need to be said now?
- Should this be said at another time?
- Is there a better way to say it? (Prov. 12:18)

Taste Test Question #3. Does what I am about to say give grace to those who hear?

Eph. 4:29 “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 will give grace to those who hear.”

- Does the way I’m communicating “minister grace” to those who hear?
- Does what I am saying benefit those who listen?
- Are my words a well-packaged gift?

Proverbs 25:11 “Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.”

Any word that fails this three-fold test is a putrid, foul-smelling word in the nostrils of God!

2 Cor. 2:14 “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”

II. Our Speech is to be Seasoned with Salt

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt...”

Salt has seasoned all of human history...

The Value of Salty Speech

1. Salt was used as a preservative to protect things from decay

Our salty speech protects our circle of influence from sin's decay.

2. Salt was used as a stabilizer in making materials for buildings.

Speech seasoned with salt can certainly be a stabilizer for building godly relationships and drawing people to Christ.
Prov.13:3 “The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.”

3. Salt was used to enhance the flavor of food.

Job 6:6 “Can something tasteless be eaten without salt...?”
Our salty speech can enhance the spiritual flavor of any conversation and stimulate the appetite for more.

4. Salt was used as a symbol of loyalty and friendship

cf. Num. 18:19; 2 Chron. 13:5 = “covenant of salt” for an honored guest and binding friendship.
Our salty speech can be used by God to unite people.

5. Salt was used to stop things from growing.

cf. Judges 9:45 where King Abimelech sows the ground with salt as punishment.
Just like salt, our speech should be such that it stops ungodliness from prevailing.
Proverbs 17:14 “..abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.”
Salt doesn't feed the weeds; it poisons them. So should our speech.

6. Salt was used as an antiseptic medicine.

A salty solution was used to protect newborn babies. (cf. Ez. 16:14)
Our salty speech can be used by God to be a healing balm.
Proverbs 15:4 “A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.”
Proverbs 12:18 “The tongue of the wise brings healing.”

7. Salt was used in worship.

cf. Lev. 2:14; Ez. 16:4 where salt was used in making sacrifices to the Lord.
Just like salt, our speech needs to be an expression of worship — an indicator that we have an intimate and personal relationship to Jesus Christ.
Proverbs 10:20 “The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver...”
Proverbs 12:19 “Truthful lips will be established forever...”

Regarding Seasoned Speech

Jesus called His disciples to be the salt of the earth. (Mt. 5:13; Mk. 9:49-50; Lk. 14:34-35). Our speech needs to reflect this...

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”

1. This seasoning of our speech is something we can't do.

Psalm 141:3 “Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

2. This seasoning of our speech is to be accomplished at a point in time.

- Romans 12:1 “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”
- Romans 6:19 “For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” (cf. Job 31:1)
- Psalm 39:1 “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle, while the wicked are in my presence.”

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” (cf. Lk. 21:14-15; 1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:2-5)

“Lord, sweeten my speech with grace and season it with salt.”

The Purpose of Growth Groups

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Rom. 8:29 & Heb. 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen.

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Eph. 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's kingdom.

Campus Bible Church

For more information about the Growth Group ministry @ Campus, visit www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroup or contact Pastor Kenton Rahn - kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com.

Sunday Messages and Notes:

Find at: www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages

Weekly Growth Group Homework:

Find at: www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework

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Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 27, 2013

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "A Recipe for Godly Speech"

Dr. Jim Cecy

January 27, 2013

Winter Quarter of Growth Groups

During your first couple of meetings you will spend time getting acquainted and going over the Growth Group Covenant together. The homework is shorter during these weeks to give you ample time for this. We pray that over the weeks ahead you make some great new friends, grow deeper in your faith, and begin caring for one another.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

- ⇒ Work at ...Disneyland or Sea World?
- ⇒ Go to a ...concert or full service day spa?
- ⇒ Live as a ...dog or a cat?
- ⇒ Sleep ...under the stars or in a four star resort?
- ⇒ Be CEO ...of BMW or Mattel?

2. Share a vivid and meaningful childhood memory that brought you closer to an understanding of God in some way?

DIGGING DEEPER

Notes:

1. Which one of the “Taste Test Questions” listed in the sermon outline (good for edification; according to the need of the moment; give grace) did you find to be the most personally applicable?

2. Identify and discuss the ways in which the properties of salt help us to understand how to speak so that God is honored and people are edified?

TAKING IT HOME

3. As a group, set aside a few moments for a “silent inventory” so that members may reflect personally on their patterns of everyday speech.
 - ⇒ How do you normally speak with family, friends, co-workers, classmates and the general public?
 - ⇒ How do you communicate by phone or through email and other electronic media?
 - ⇒ What needs to change? What is your first priority for change? What immediate steps will you take to make this change happen?

As appropriate, share your commitments with the group.

4. Spend some time this session reviewing the group covenant together and discussing your group’s goals, expectations and commitments.