

Whatever You Say Colossians 4:2-18

Introduction:

- Your words reveal what you really **believe** about Jesus
- Luke 6: "Out of the abundance of the **heart**, the mouth speaks"

Paul's Challenge:

Use our words to **point** people to Jesus and give **glory** to God

Four Principles for Christ-Submitted Words:

1. **Pray** with your words - they connect you to God (4:2-4)

- Start with **prayer**, not communication techniques
- "Devote" = same word for disciples' **persistent** prayer before Pentecost
- Challenge: Pick **three** people who don't know Jesus and pray for them daily

2. **Engage** with your words - they build bridges to outsiders (4:5-6)

- Words should build **bridges** not walls
- Grace = undeserved **favor** and kindness
- Salt = preserves, purifies, and enhances **flavor**
- Proverbs 25:11: "A word spoken at the **right** time"

Key Life Intersections:

- Intersection of **Change**: Moving, new job, marriage, baby, graduation
- Intersection of **Crisis**: Death, illness, job loss, divorce, mental health

3. **Encourage** with your words - they strengthen others (4:7-9)

- Paul's purpose: "**Encourage** your hearts"
- Encouragement literally means "to put **courage** into"

Four Practical Strategies:

1. See and Say What Others **Miss**: Point out character qualities
2. Affirm Their **Value** in God's Kingdom: Remind them of their identity
3. Speak to Their **Future**, Not Just Their Past: Cast vision
4. Be **Specific** Rather Than Generic: Mention specific contributions

4. **Honor** with your words - they deepen your relationships (4:10-18)

- Paul mentions **ten** people by name
- Personal recognition: "Mark, cousin of **Barnabas**," "Luke the beloved **Physician**"
- People feel **seen** by him

Honor People:

1. **Specifically**
2. **Personally**

3. **Intentionally**

Personal Application

Four Areas to Evaluate:

- Are your words connecting you to **others?**
- Are your words building **bridges** to outsiders?
- Are your words **honoring** others?
- Are your words **strengthening** your relationships?