

Thank you,...Chris Jimenez
Speaker for today

Jesus said, "Be careful with your words!"

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 22 Elizabeth Medina
31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

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*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

Count to Ten

By Joe Slater

Few things bring us more regret than words we have spoken. Especially when a situation is heated by emotion, we tend to speak harshly rather than letting our speech be *"with grace, seasoned with salt"* (Colossians 4:6).

I remember a piece of advice: "Count to ten" before saying anything. Even ten might be insufficient, but the principle of thinking before speaking finds much support in Scripture.

"Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Proverbs 29:20). That applies to additional settings besides anger. Simple off-the-cuff remarks can devastate someone's feelings even though you didn't intend it.

But angry words are the culprit more often than not. An excellent song admonishes us: "Angry words, Oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip." The writer obviously referred to James 1:26 where the Lord's brother wrote, *"If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless."*

Just as a bridle controls a horse, we must control our tongue (i.e. our words). Hear again the wise King Solomon: *“A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back”* (Proverbs 29:11). Someone protests, “I was just speaking my mind!” Perhaps so, but might it not have been better if you had thought it through first?

“In a multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise”(Proverbs 10:19).

Corrupt Communication

By R.W. McAlister

Are you as tired of hearing it as I am? It fills television shows, it's heard at the grocery store, the ballgame, restaurants, the workplace, it's found in movies and in novels - it's seemingly everywhere! What am I talking about? Profanity!

We hear it—not just from sailors (“cuss like a sailor”), or from the French (“pardon my ‘French’”)—but from all segments of society. It used to be the case that a gentleman would never use profanity in the presence of a lady, and deep down, he probably knew he shouldn't use it in front of anyone. These days, I occasionally hear (or hear about) women who can swear as fluently as anyone. Even small children now can “cuss a blue streak.” It almost seems as if some of the first words they learn are “four-letter” words.

A recent study by the Parents Television Council found the use of profanity during the so-called “family hour” (8:00 to 9:00 Eastern time) is up fifty-eight percent from two years ago, and the nature of the language (sexual explicitness) is getting worse.

I was surprised just a couple of evenings ago when my wife was checking out a movie on the Internet (to see if it's something we could watch), and she mentioned the words of

foul language that were in it. The article continued by saying those words (I won't repeat them here) “weren't serious.” We're like Israel of old - we've become so desensitized to profanity, we don't even blush! (cf. Jeremiah 6:15).

The Bible is not silent concerning the manner in which we speak. Paul wrote: *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”* (Ephesians 4:29).

The term rendered “corrupt” is the Greek *sapros*, meaning, “rotten; putrefied.” It references that which provides no good service. Our words in the presence of others ought to be such as build men up, rather than degrading them (Job 4:4).

Again, the inspired apostle wrote: *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth”* (Colossians 3:8). The term signifies that which is base; “foul or filthy” language.

It used to be that if a child used foul language, he (or she) had their mouth “washed out” with soap. I think it's time to get back to that, and not only for children! Let us dispense with corrupt communication and use only speech which is *“good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

Let this be my Prayer

*“Let the words of my mouth and
The meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.”*

Psalms 19:14