

Talk - cont.

God (1 Corinthians 2:1-5,13; note Psalm 119:13).

- Talk that corrects the erring (Galatians 6:1-2).
- Talk that shows appreciation for all of God's blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
- Talk that encourages other brethren (Ephesians 4:29; note Malachi 3:16).
- Talk that demonstrates an understanding of spiritual wisdom (Colossians 1:9).
- Talk that focuses on heaven (Colossians 3:1-17; note "spiritual songs" in v. 16 and Ephesians 5:19).

Our Spiritual Talk

Brethren, our talk should show that we are spiritually-minded. Spiritual maturity is an expected state for all believers (1 Corinthians 3:1). Are you led by the flesh or by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:4-14)? Are you walking by the flesh or by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)? Let us all have speech that is spiritual and that cannot be condemned (Titus 2:8).

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

I will have many choices to make each day this week and it is possible that my choices might be numerous. But when it comes to my relationship with God, my choices are really just limited to two. I will choose the narrow way over the broad way. I will choose truth over error. I will choose light over darkness. I will choose right over wrong. I will choose righteousness over wickedness. I will choose obedience over sin. I will choose faith over unbelief. I will choose Jesus over the Devil.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

*Therewith bless we the Lord and Father;
and therewith curse we men, who are
made after the likeness of God: out of the
same mouth cometh forth blessing and
cursing. My brethren, these things ought
not so to be.*

- James 3:9-10 -

You can identify a person in many ways. For example, you can identify persons by the way they look. We now have facial recognition software that can identify and locate a person by the way he looks. You can also identify persons by the way they talk. Our talk identifies who we are.

This was the case with Peter on the night that he betrayed the Lord. His words identified him as a follower of Jesus even though he was trying to distance himself from Jesus. Matthew records it this way: *“Thy speech maketh thee known (26:73).*

We would do well to consider what we are saying each day and think about what our words are saying about our character. This bulletin article focuses on the pursuit of the good and spiritual talk that we should have.

- Our talk comes from our heart;

the tongue is a heart indicator (Matthew 12:34-37; 15:19).

- Our talk reveals our true religion (James 1:26).
- Our talk can be good, bad, or both (Proverbs 18:21; James 3:9-11).



- Our talk that is spiritual comes from a spiritual heart led by the Holy Spirit. *“Speaking things which they ought not”* is a sign that someone is following Satan (1 Timothy 5:13-15).
- Our talk should refrain from evil, but it

should also pursue good (1 Peter 3:10-11).

Talk That Should Not Be Made

There, of course, is a talk that we should not make. We should not talk in a way that is corrupt (Ephesians 4:29,31). We should not engage in profanity, cursing, outbursts of anger, swearing, lying, deceit, gossip, tale-bearing, flattery, boasting, unjust criticism, slander, backbiting, reviling, ridicule, blasphemy, mocking, insults, contentious words (strife), murmuring, complaining, euphemisms, etc. We should also not engage in foolish talk (Ephesians 5:4).

Talk That Should Be Made

But, there is the good and spiritual talk that we should make as Christian. What kind of talk is this?

- Talk that confesses Christ daily (Matthew 10:32-33; note Acts 4:17-18,20,29; 5:20,40).
- Talk that speaks the truth in love (Acts 26:25; note Ephesians 4:15,25).
- Talk that focuses on the Word of