

SPEAKING YOUR MIND: TWO QUESTIONS

1. Is "speaking your mind" appropriate for Christians?
2. What are the pitfalls for Christians being SEEN speaking their minds?

THE BIBLE ON WORDS

- Appropriateness of words is largely _____
- The heart of the matter is a matter of the _____

"It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth."
MATT 15:11

"Whatever is in your heart determines what you say." MATT 12:34

OUR HEARTS ARE "SEEN" IN OUR CONVERSATIONS

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls." JAS 1:19-21

*"People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so **blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**"*
JAS 3:7-10

THE BIBLE ON CONVERSATIONS

"Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech." PROV 4:24

"Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back." PROV 29:11

"Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech." 1 PET 2:1

"Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language." COL 3:8

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them... Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander... Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you." EPH 4:29, 31; 5:4

"Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 TIM 4:12

1. Scripture Calls God's People to _____ Certain Kinds of Speech

- Lies & Deceit • Flattery & Flirty (speech that leads to sexual sin) • Crooked & Perverted • Destructive & Derogative • Dirty Jokes • Cursing & Profanity • Insults • Tearing Down • Slander • Talking Too Much • Gossip • Arguing • Blasphemy • Speaking Evil of Someone • Critical • Grumbling & Complaining

2. Scripture Calls God's People to _____ Certain Kinds of Speech

- Build Others Up • Honesty • Restraint • Blessing • Singing & Praise to God and the Church • Teaching Each Other • Prayer • Exhortation & Encouragement • Preaching • Witnessing & Evangelism • All Speech for the Glory of God

GOOD RULE OF THUMB

"Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall." ROM 14:13

"You must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble." 1 COR 8:9

"Live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us." 2 COR 6:3