

DOES GOD GRANT THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH?

HOW SHOULD WE USE OUR WORDS?

1. We should speak the _____

[Ephesians 4:25-31](#) “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”

2. We should _____ others

[Proverbs 12:25](#) “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.”

3. We should speak words _____ to the Lord

[Psalm 19:14](#) “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Being truthful, encouraging and pleasing to the Lord should be the goal for all our speech and if there are words other than these, we should keep them to ourselves.





WHAT OUR SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR?

1. We should not use our words to _____ others.

[Romans 12:14](#) “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.”

2. We should not speak _____ words

[Proverbs 12:18](#) “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

[Proverbs 11:12](#) “Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.”

3. We should not tell _____

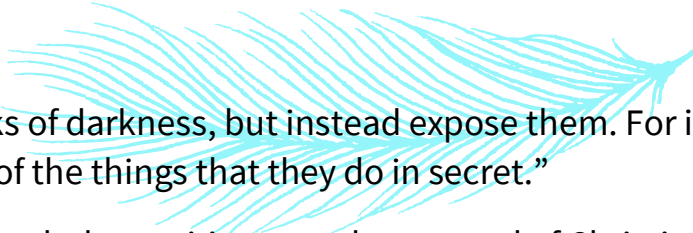
[Psalms 34:13](#) “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.”

4. We should not _____

[Proverbs 16:28](#) “A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.”

5. We should not tell _____ jokes

[Ephesians 5:3–12](#) “But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the



unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.”

These examples, both the positive speech expected of Christians and the kinds of speech Christians are commanded to avoid are only the beginning.

I would like to end this lesson with one final point that I hope will resonate and stick with you as you live your life. Instead of my words though, I will let Jesus speak for himself.

[Matthew 12:33-37](#) ““Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”” .