

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 4:25,29

Lesson #23

Edifying speech

01/07/2017

“If you can’t say anything **constructive** don’t say anything at all.”

“If you’re not a part of **the problem or the solution** it’s best to stay out of it.”

“Only fools speak before they **listen and think**.”

1

James 1:19

“But everyone must be quick to hear, **slow to speak** and slow to anger;”

Speaking is discouraged, but only conditionally.

Speaking must be synced with

- 1. Empathetic understanding.**
- 2. Well managed fear & anger.**

2

The context of Ephesians 4-6

Ephesians

In ch.1-3 there is only one exhortation (2:11 “remember”) and two long prayers for insight.

Ch.4-6 are full of exhortations.

Our walk in Christ

Our walk in life is to grow out of and be based on our security in Christ.

Our wealth in Christ

3

The context of Ephesians 4-6

Specifics (4:25-6:24)

It is an identity choice (4:17-24)

It is a community effort (4:1-16)

Our walk in Christ (ch.4-6)

Our wealth in Christ (ch.1-3)

4

Three issues to **lay aside** and **put on**.

Ephesians 4

“25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **speaking truth**, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 **Be angry**, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

5

Three big issues that head Paul's list of
"walking in a manner worthy of our
calling" (Eph.4:1).

1. Managing our
TONGUE.

2. Managing our
TEMPER.

3. Managing our
TREASURE.



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Managing our TONGUE

Last week

1. How we speak to
OURSELVES.

This week

2. How we speak to
ONE ANOTHER.



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Ephesians 4

"25 Therefore, laying aside **falsehood**, speak **truth**, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

29 Let no **unwholesome word** proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is **good for edification according to the need of the moment**, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Colossians 3

"8 But now you also, put them all aside: . . . **abusive speech** from your mouth. 9 **Do not lie** to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him -"

Colossians 4

"6 Let your speech **always be with grace**, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so **that you may know how you should respond to each person.**"

8

Managing the tongue
was mentioned earlier as the primary
"body building" tool.

Ephesians 4

"15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." 9

9

What makes for "edifying speech"?

1. It is based on **personal security** through God's love in Christ.

Know yourself

(get in touch with your heart)

Accept yourself

(apply grace to yourself)

Forget yourself

(remove defensive strategies)

Give yourself

(minister grace to others)



10

What makes for "edifying speech"?

1. It is based on **personal security** through God's love in Christ.

✓ **Cultivate realistic expectations**

✓ **Maintain a broad perspective**

✓ **Embrace kingdom priorities**



11

What makes for “edifying speech”?

1. It is based on **personal security** through God’s love in Christ.
2. It demands that we **identify and refuse** to reflect the world’s values.

Lay aside
**worldly
lies**



Put on
**edifying
speech**



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Managing our TONGUE

1. *It’s not only about*
**avoiding gossip,
slander, and lying.**
2. *It’s primarily about*
**building maturity
in Christian
community.**



13

1 Peter 3:8

“⁸ To sum up, all of you be **harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit**; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead, for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

Constructive speech:

1. *comes from an empathetic heart.*

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 GOOD AND EVIL



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

The Science of Good and Evil

What makes people especially giving or cruel?
Researchers say the way our brains are wired can affect how much empathy we feel for others.

Researchers find that empathy kindles the fires of compassion, impelling us to help others.

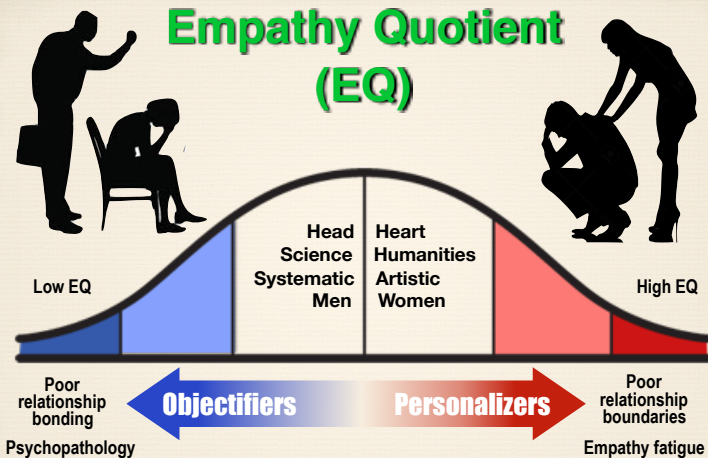
They also found that empathy is contagious and conditioned.



BY YUDHIJIT BHATTACHARJEE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LYNN JOHNSON

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Empathy Quotient (EQ)



Edifying speech calls for a healthy balance.

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1 Peter 3:8

“⁸ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ **not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead**, for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

Constructive speech:

1. *comes from an empathetic heart.*
2. *responds to life’s challenges.*

17

Love is a gracious response to life's challenges.

1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to
 patient trials
 kind insults
 not jealous success of others
 does not brag success of self
 is not arrogant power & authority
 is not unbecoming freedom
 not self seeking competition
 is not provoked confrontation
 holds no grudges injustice
 does not rejoice failure of others
 rejoices in the truth gossip & slander
 bears all things losses
 believes & hopes all things discouragement
 endures all things delayed hope¹⁸

1 Peter 3:8

“⁸ To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead, for **you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.**”

Constructive speech:

1. comes from an empathetic heart.
2. responds to life's challenges.
3. builds friends and influences people.¹⁹

What makes for “edifying speech”?

1. It is based on **personal security** through God's love in Christ.
2. It demands that we **identify and refuse** to reflect the world's values.
3. It **builds relationships** between people
 - grace - respect / acceptance
 - timing - “there is a season . . .”
 - customized for each person.
 - listening - understanding.
 - empathizing - shared feelings.



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Relational health

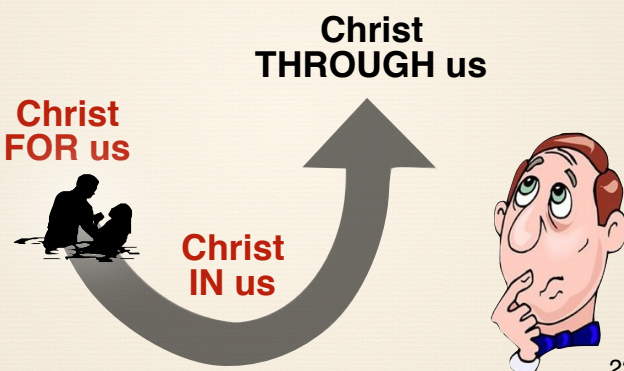
Truthful
 Transparent
 Trusting
 Trustworthy
 Tactful
 Tender
 Tolerant
 Thankful



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Examples from Jesus and Apostles

- The structure and content of the Apostles' letters.



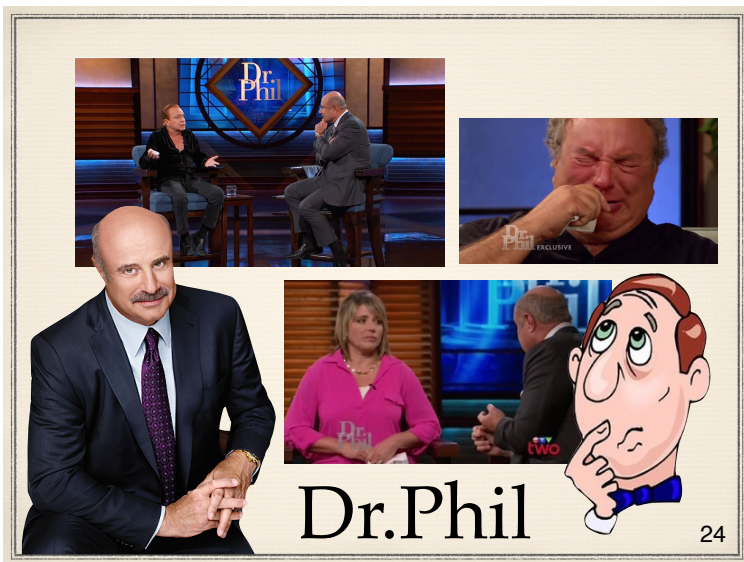
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Examples from Jesus and Apostles

- The structure and content of the Apostles' letters.
- John 3:17 “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”
- John 4:7-26 The Samaritan woman
- John 8:1-11 The adulterous woman
- Matthew 18 Instructions for restoring a sinning brother
 - ✓ progressive - “economy of force”
 - ✓ privacy - respect / restraint
 - ✓ priority - reconciliation / restoration



23



Never say “I love you”
if you don’t really care.
Never talk of feelings
if they aren’t really there.
Never hold my hand
if you’re gonna break my heart.
Never say you’re going to...
if you don’t intend to start.
Never look into my eyes
if all you do is lie.
Never say “hello”
if you really mean “goodbye.”

25

“lay aside
the old self,
and put on
the new self.”

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