

Words and Phrases We Should Say

First preached at the East Albertville
church of Christ on November 27, 2022.



Preface

“But I say to you that for every idle [careless, ESV] word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matt. 12:36-37).

Our words will either justify us or condemn us. As result, let’s consider words and phrases that Christians should say.

“If the Lord Wills . . .”

*“Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, **'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil” (James 4:13-16).*

- Notice the text says we ought to **"say"** this phrase, not just think it.
- Paul did this regularly (**Acts 18:20-21; 1 Cor. 4:17-19; 1 Cor. 16:5-7**).
 - We are required to follow his approved example (**1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:19**).
- The older I get the less I hear this expression. Remember: **“all such boasting is evil!”**

“Amen”

“I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?” (1 Cor. 14:15-16).

These verses suggest a few things for those participating but not leading a prayer:

- a) We must listen to the prayer.
- b) We must understand the prayer (leaders – Matt. 6:5-7).
- c) We must agree with the prayer.
- d) We must say “amen” audibly or mentally (ladies – 1 Cor. 14:34-35).

“Thank You”

Some people never say “thank you,” but we should regularly express our gratitude and thanks, not only to God, but also to/for each other.

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful” (Col. 3:12-15).

“Thank You”

How often do we thank God for the fellowship we have with people of like precious faith?

*“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers**” (Eph. 1:15-16).*

“Thank You”

A Word of Caution:

We should not mistake flattery for gratitude.

- Flattery, like every sin of the tongue, “*Defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell*” **(James 3:6)**.
- The Proverbial writer warns:
 - “*A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin*” **(26:28)**.
 - “*To flatter friends is to lay a trap for their feet*” **(29:5, NLT)**.

We Must Beware Insincere “Thankfulness” – It Is Flattery!

“I’m Sorry” (and actually mean it!)

Consider King Saul’s Response to His Sin:

- i. He first denied any wrongdoing:
 - *“But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord” (1 Sam. 15:20).*
- ii. Then, he blamed the people:
 - *“But the people . . .” (1 Sam. 15:21).*
- iii. Finally, he admitted his sin, but attempted to justify himself:
 - *“Then Saul said to Samuel, ‘I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice’” (1 Sam. 15:24-26).*

How often do we find ourselves falling into Satan’s trap like King Saul did?

“I’m Sorry” (and actually mean it!)

- We make things right with God by repenting and confessing to Him (**1 John 1:9**).
- We make things right with others by likewise repenting, admitting our wrong, seeking forgiveness, and offering to make restitution. Remember Zacchaeus?
 - *“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount’” (Luke 19:8, NIV).*
- Being reconciled to an offended person should be a top priority.
 - *“If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).*

“ ”

Silence Can Be Golden:

- *“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words” (Ecc. 5:2-3).*
- *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (Jam. 4:19-20).*

“ ”

Silence Can Demonstrate:

- Our willingness to serve others in love (**Job 2:11-13**).
- Our ability to evaluate instruction carefully (**1 Cor. 14:29-31**).
 - **NOTE:** The principle is still applicable today even though we do not possess miraculous spiritual gifts.
- Decency and order (**1 Cor. 14**).
- Our wisdom, or lack thereof (**Job 2:13, 13:5**).

Do we recognize the occasions when we should be silent?

Confession of Faith

- When the Ethiopian eunuch wanted to be baptized, Philip told him that if he believed with all his heart, he could be baptized. The eunuch responded by confessing, *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* (Acts 8:37).
- On Pentecost, those present were convicted by Peter’s message and confessed their belief, asking *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37).
- If we want to become a Christian, a verbal confession of Christ must be made.
 - *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Rom. 10:9-10).

Confession of Faith

Jesus promises, “*Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven*” (Matt. 10:32-33).

- If you are not a Christian, won't you confess Christ **today**?
- If you are already a Christian but your daily walk does not match your verbal confession, won't you correct that **today**?