

Isaiah 29:21 “Those who with a word make a man out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.”

D. Slander creates division in the body of Christ.

Proverbs 16:28 “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.”

E. Slander’s brings God’s discipline.

Hebrews 12:6 “The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”

How can you avoid the sin of slander?

A. Pay attention to your speech.

Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen.”

B. Put away speech that is contrary to God’s Word.

1 Peter 2:1 “Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.”

Proverbs 17:4 “A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.”

C. Power from the Holy Spirit is needed to speak properly.

Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ^[23]gentleness and self-control.”

D. Put God’s Word into practice when you speak.

Psalms 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Proverbs 16:23 “A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”

Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

The Words We Speak! James 4:11-17 Lesson #9 7/7/24

Matthew 12:34 “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

I. Slander is the usual speech we hear in our world.

Genesis 31:1 “Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, “Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.”

Matthew 11:18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

Matthew 11:19 “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”

Romans 3:8 “Why not say – as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say – “Let us do evil that good may result”?”

Revelation 12:10b “... For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God, day and night has been hurled down.”

II. Slander is unholy speech and should not be spoken by a believer.

A. Do not slander others.

James 4:11 “Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.”

1 Peter 2:12 “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

1 Peter 3:16 “Keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

2 Cor. 12:20 “For I am afraid that when I come, I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder.”

1 Peter 2:1 “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind.”

Exodus 23:1 “Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness.”

Leviticus 19:16 “Do not go about spreading slander among your people.”

Proverbs 6:19 “A false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.”

Proverbs 10:18 “He who conceals his hatred has lying lips and whoever spreads slander is a fool.”

B. Do not pass the sentence on others.

James 4:11b “... Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him”

C. Do not speak against God’s law.

James 4:11c “... speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.”

James 2:8 “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself;” you are doing right.”

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Exodus 20:4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water below.”

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.”

Exodus 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”

Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”

Exodus 20:15 “You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Matthew 22:37 “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”^[38] This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matthew 22:39 “And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:40 “All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

James 4:11c “... speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.”

D. Do not forget the Sovereign God who sits on the throne.

****James 4:12** “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?”

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentiles.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.”

Matthew 10:28 “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

III. Slander has many unhealthy outcomes.

A. Slander is contrary to God’s will.

James 4:11a “Brothers, do not slander one another”

Proverbs 8:1 “To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”

B. Slander grieves the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

C. Slander hurts the reputations of others.

Proverbs 11:9 “With the mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.”