

RESPECTABLE SINS

Confronting the Sins we Tolerate

.....

Tonight, we want to address the topic that most assumed this book was about, sins of the tongue. Concerning gossip Bridges said, “*Apparently, this is the first of the Christian sins that comes to mind, so it must be quite prevalent among us and is something we continue to tolerate in our lives.*” [Respectable Sins, pg 159]

THE DENOTATION OF THE SINS

- The Bible clearly warns us of the sins of the tongue: gossip, slander, critical speech and hurtful words.
- The book of Proverbs gives some _____ warnings about these sins.
- The Lord Jesus in Matthew 12:36 said, that every _____ word spoken will be one day brought into account.
- Paul stressed the importance of our words as part of our testimony before others. In 1 Timothy 4:12 the first means of us being an example of the believer is in our _____.
- Perhaps the lengthiest treatment on the tongue is found in the book of James and the third chapter.
 - In James 3:2, we are told that a perfect man is one that does not _____ in word. This man who controls the tongue controls the _____.
 - James goes on to express that although the tongue is a small member, it is a _____ member of our bodies.
 - In James 3:6, the tongue is called a “*fire, a world of iniquity.*” It has the power to do great destruction and bring great defilement.
 - In verse 8 it is called “*an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*”
- Our tongue has the power to bring _____, but it also has a great power to _____.

Gossip

- Gossip is the spreading of _____ information about someone else, even in the event that the information is true.
- Gossip feeds our sinful _____.

- Gossip is a means to _____ yourself at the expense of _____ down another person.

Slander

- Slander is making a _____ statement or misrepresentation about another person that defames the person’s reputation.
- We slander another person that we might be able to get an _____ on them.
- Simply put it is _____.

Critical Speech

- Critical speech can be defined as _____ comments about someone that might be true but do _____ need to be said.
- They may not be the “sharpest knife in the block” or “a few french fries short of a happy meal” as we may say, but is it necessary that we draw others attention to it.

Sarcasm, Insults, Ridicule

- As a group they share the common denominator of putting down another, humiliation and/or the intent to _____ another.
- Ephesians 5:4 tells us “*Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather thanks.*”

STIPULATIONS FOR OUR TONGUES

- David said at the end of Psalm 19 “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*”
- You probably remember your parents saying, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything at all.”
- Let me give another simple way to control your tongue. It is the simple acrostic **THINK before you speak**:

Is what I am going to say...

T - _____

H - _____

I - _____

N - _____

K - _____