

ENCOURAGING WORDS.

1/22/2023 AM

INTRO.:

A. Bible often emphasizes the importance of our words.

1. **James 3:1-5** (READ). Our speech must be controlled.
 - 1) Words are used to convey messages and emotions.
 - 2) It matters what we say and how we say things!
2. Our words can be used for good or for bad.
 - 1) We are to exhort and encourage one another!
 - a. **1 Thess. 4:18** "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." **1 Thess. 5:11** "...comfort yourselves together, and edify one another..."
 - b. **Col. 4:6** "Let your speech be always with grace..."
 - 2) Must be careful with our words.

B. Since speech is important... How should we speak to one another?

DISCUSSION: USE OUR WORDS TO...

I. ENCOURAGE.

A. All have experienced a heavy heart and discouragement.

1. Our words can help the broken-hearted and encourage the discouraged.
 - 1) **Pro. 12:25; Pro. 15:23.**
 - 2) **1 Thess. 5:11.**
2. A good word can cheer. It can help heal a contrite heart.
 - 1) **Pro. 16:24.**
 - 2) Like medicine: **Pro. 17:22.**

B. Words can wound or help heal (**Pro.18:21; 10:21**).

C. Did you ever consider the value of encouraging words?

1. **Pro. 25:11** "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."
 - 1) Fitly spoken = Quickly... (when most needed).
 - 2) LIKE "apples of gold..." (Great value.)

II. BUILD OTHERS UP.

A. It is a popular thing in our world to find fault!

1. Must be careful never to speak "discouraging words."
 - 1) Not to say we are not to correct error.
 - 2) But correction should be constructive. (Not destructive.)
2. Paul warned: **Eph. 4:29**. NO CORRUPT - None at all!

B. Christians are to EDIFY one another.

1. EDIFY = (the act of) building, building up (Thayer's).
 - 1) **Rom 14:19.**
 - 2) **Eph. 4:12.**
2. Whatever we say or do to one another MUST be for the benefit and good of others.

III. TWO BIBLE EXAMPLES:

A. Hezekiah: **2 Chro. 30:22.**

1. He spoke encouragingly.
2. Hezekiah made a habit of encouraging others (**2 Chro. 32:6-7**).

B. Onesiphorus: **2 Tim. 1:16.**

1. Refreshed = To recover, relieve.
2. **Pro 25:13.**

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Think before we speak.