Respectable Sins

Session Twelve

Sins of the Tongue

***HOOK***

* How have you begun to notice judgmentalism in yourself and what steps have you taken to correct it?

***BOOK***

**Problem of the Sins of the Tongue**

1. How do we know that God takes “respectable” sins of the tongue seriously? (Matthew 12:36-37)
2. “Any speech” writes the author, “that tends to dear down another person – either someone we are talking about or someone we are talking to – is sinful speech.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Read Ephesians 4:29. Describe, in your own words, what God (through Paul) tell us to do. How does this verse relate to the “put off/put on” principle Paul mentioned earlier in verses 22-24?
4. What does 1 Peter 4:10-11 say about how we should speak?
5. Which word picture(s) did James use (see James 3:1-12) to illustrate the tongues power and sinful effects? What did he want us to realize?
6. Read Ephesians 4:29 again. Jerry writes: “Note Paul’s absolute prohibition No corrupt talk. None whatsoever. This means no gossip, no sarcasm, no critical speech, no harsh words…think about what the church of Jesus Christ would look like if we all sought to apply Paul’s words.” If indeed we could live and worship together in this way, what would the body of Christ be like? What are we each willing to do in order to help make that happen?
7. What is the real problem and source of our sinful speech? (See Matthew 12:33; Luke 6:45)
8. How have Christian’s sinful speech affected their churches? Their witness in the local community?

**Specific Sins of the Tongue**

1. Gossip
   1. What is gossip?
   2. Why is gossip so appealing?

* 1. In what ways do we disguise or justify gossip?
  2. What does Proverbs 11:11-13 reveal about gossip?
  3. What damage does Gossip do?

1. Slander
   1. What is slander?
   2. Do Christians slander? How?
   3. What motivates slander?
   4. What is slander really?
   5. What does Eph 4:31 and Col 3:8 say about slander?
2. Critical Speech
   1. What is critical speech? Criticism?
   2. What are some examples?
   3. If there is truth to these statements, what makes them wrong?
   4. How then, should these concerns be dealt with?
   5. What would be some good questions to ask that would help to deter such speech?
      1. Is it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
      2. Is it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
   6. What does James 5:9 reveal about our speech?

We not only sin in our speech *about* one another but we also sin when talking *to* one another. Consider the following:

1. Sarcasm, Insults, Ridicule
   1. What is sarcasm?
   2. What is an insult?
   3. What is ridicule?
   4. What is the common denominator between these three?
   5. From where, what motive or attitude, do these sins most often come?
2. Read Ephesians 4:29 again. In what ways in this verse incomplete in dealing with sins of the tongue?
3. How does Psalm 19:14 in combination with Ephesians 4:29 help us with this dilemma?
4. What does Proverbs 4:23 tell us to do?

***LOOK***

1. “The tongue” writes the author, “is only the instrument that reveals what’s in our hearts.” Based on your speech, what is in your heart? What might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to do about it?
2. Confess any sins of judgmentalism or sins of the tongue. Talk honestly with God about how you’d like to improve and invite Him to help you.

***TOOK***

1. For the next two days, ask yourself, will what I’m about to say tend to tear down or built up the person to whom I speak (or about whom I speak)?
2. Confess any sins of judgmentalism or sins of the tongue. Talk honestly with God about how you’d like to improve and invite Him to help you.