

***Ephesians 4:29 / "You Said What?"
Speaking to benefit others.***

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth."

- It is accepted; those who profess to have surrendered their lives to Christ don't cuss, gossip, and tell dirty jokes.
- But why? It has more to do with reflecting God's character than with moral or societal acceptance.
- When God speaks, even in judgment, He does so to benefit a person, not to harm him or her.
- "*Unwholesome*" words are those that have little to no value in edifying or uplifting another.

"But only such a word as is good for edification according to the need."

- Purpose has been forgotten when one speaks.
- To speak for the purpose of edification requires that I be aware of the needs of the person before me.
- To speak for the purpose of edification requires that my words be well chosen. Prayerful and considerate thought must transpire before one speaks.
- I am not to speak to use people for my needs, but to help them in theirs.

"So that it will give grace to those who hear."

- What does Paul mean by this? What is "grace"?
- Grace is more than just a kind, emotional, disposition towards someone. It is an inclination that motivates action.

Acts 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

- What I say will have an affect upon others, to either the person to whom I am talking or those who overhear me.
- Don't let your speech be a cause for others to stumble.
- Instead, let it encourage them, meet their needs, help them in their journeys to know the Lord.

Closing:

1. The Bible reveals humanity will be judged for "*every careless word they have spoken*" (Matthew 12:36).
2. Given this, let us give thoughts to the words we speak and the purpose for which they are spoken.