

LEARNING TO SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE
Sermon Series: WORDS: “The Power to Heal or Destroy”
March 18th, 2018
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Family Life Christian Church

Sermon Bumper “WORDS—HAWK NELSON”

“Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose.” **Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)**

“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” **James 3:7-8 (NIV)**

“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. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” **Ephesians 4:29-31(NIV)**

“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” **Ephesians 4:14-15 (NLT)**

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” **Colossians 3:16 (NIV)**

“But if the watchman sees the enemy coming and doesn’t sound the alarm to warn the people, he is responsible for their captivity. They will die in their sins, but I will hold the watchman responsible for their deaths.” **Ezekiel 33:6 (NLT)**

When Speaking The Truth: ASK...

1. IS MY MOTIVES TO HELP OR TO HURT?

“I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children.” **1 Corinthians 4:14 (NIV)**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)**

“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.” **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)**

2. WHAT DOES MY TONE COMMUNICATE?

“For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.” **2 Corinthians 2:4 (NIV)**

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” **Colossians 4:6 (NIV)**

“Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— 9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” **2 Corinthians 7:8-10 (NIV)**

THIS WEEKS FAITH CHALLENGE

- I will commit this week to check my motives before I speak the truth.
- I will commit this week to watch my tone before I speak the truth in love.