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TEPT4030 Homiletics I (Dr. Rick Griffith) (Manuscript for Ephesians 4:29)

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**To Harm or to Help? Ephesians 4:29 (Cyclical Deductive Form)**

*Purpose: The listeners will speak to other believers harmlessly and helpfully*

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| Intro  ILL | Have you ever made a big mistake when you speak? Let me tell you about what happened to my ex-boss.  It was almost 20 years ago but still I remember one of my ex-boss. The ex-boss rebuked all managers including me. He said If I were you, I would feel shamed when I get my salary because of the poor performance. The manager liked to rebuke his subordinate seriously when result was not good. He frequently emphasized the team work. But many people thought he was the most hindrance person in achieving good team work. |
| Raised Needs | Speaking is one of the most common and important ways of communication. Because people share ideas and emotions with others. Important things is what kind of words, tone and gesture we use when we speak.  It is said that you can save people or kill them with words. |
| Cont | We know that pastor’s misused words make a huge conflict in the church and it could even divide the church. If you want to be a church leader, you should know the proper manner of speaking. |
| Theme | Today, based on Ephesians 4:29, I will share “how we can give grace to other believers using words.” |
| Before  v29  4:22  4:24 | Before jumping into today’s passage, let me tell you what Paul says before verse 29.  4:22] Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life  4:24] Put on your new nature, created to be like God--truly righteous and holy.  Paul urges that we should take off old sinful nature and should not follow non-believer’s behavior. Believers are new creature and should live differently from non-believers. |
| 4:25-30 | We can consider that verse 25-30 is one paragraph. Here Ephesians 4:25-30, Paul emphasize the new life style as believers. Paul talks about "how believers should live." Paul commands "not to do" like "lie (4:25), steal (4:28), use foul language (4:29), angrily abuse people (4:31)." And commands "to do" like "tell the truth (4:25), work hard (4:28), use edifying speech (4:28), and forgive (4:32)." |
| Text | Let's read together today's passage Ephesians 4:29. It is about way of speaking. This is NASB Bible. “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” |
| T | Verse 4:29 gives us two ways of speaking to other believers properly and reason behind it. |
| MP I,  word explain | The first way of speaking is to speak to other believers harmlessly. Paul says "Speak no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths"  The word “unwholesome” means "rotten or decay" and also “bad, evil, foul, unwholesome." Paul prohibits the all harmful words. |
| 1 Sam 25 | Unwholesome talk has destructive power. One of example is Nabal’s words. in 1 Samuel 25. When David sent his people to Nabal, Nabal despised David even though David protected Nabal’s flocks.  Nabal said, "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered to the young men. "Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that …give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?" (1 Sam. 25:10-11 NLT)  The result of his words was that David decided to kill his family. |
| ILL (hate you) | People did simple test. They prepared onions and put in the cups. This cup contained enough water that the bottom of onion touched the water. People said to one onion “hate you, annoying, or ugly.” A few day later, they found this onion became slightly wilted.  It is proved that bad words are toxic. |
| Explain,  James 3:2, 8 | It is not easy to control tongue.  James 3:2 says, For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.  James 3:8 says, No one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. |
| Explain,  James 1:5 | Do not feel confident that you can control your tongue.  You should ask God for wisdom.  James 1:5 says, If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. |
| App. | What kind of word should you not use in your daily life?  Vulgar word, angered words, annoying words, insulting words are like spewing poison to your opponent.  Verbal mistake, you may think it is a small matter but someone can be hurt seriously by it.    Most of scars in people’s heart are from other’s verbal abuse. Speak gently and respectfully always |
| T,  MP II, word explain | The second way of speaking is to speak to other believers helpfully. Paul says "only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment"  Here “good for edification” means "morally good" and also "build the confidence and encourage members, create goodwill, genuine, substantive”. Simply, speak what is helpful. |
| 1 Sam 25 | I will continue the story of Nabal and David. When Abigail heard what her husband Nabal did, she quickly went to David with foods and bowed low before David, and saying “I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent. … he LORD has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is.”  You can see that Abigail saved Nabal and also she kept David from murdering. |
| ILL (thanks you) | People said to other onion “Love you, Thank you, pretty”. Few days later, people found this onion was still very fresh. You can see the difference in this picture. They did same test with bread. To one bread, people spoke “love you, thank you, pretty” and to other bread, people spoke “hate you, annoying, ugly,” A few days later, they found totally different result. One bread looked like people could eat it, but another one looked decayed.  Do you know the reason?  When people speak, something come out from mouse and it is different when we speak good words and bad words. |
| App.  ILL] | What kind of words can you use to help others in your daily life? Use your tongue for true praise, encouragement and comfort, effective advice. Please do as much as possible it. |
| T,  MP III | Why should we speak in these two ways? Because  Harmless and helpful speaking give benefits to listeners  Paul says “so that it will give grace to those who hear”  Meaning of “grace” here is to give grace and to do favor for someone.  Grace is a gift given by God to enables the recipient to accomplish the task of God.  Harmless and helpful speaking are helpful individuals to be restored in spiritually, physically, emotionally.  It is also helpful to build healthy community. |
| ILL | I served in church as a voluntary teacher quite long time but I felt I found it difficult to build good relationship with young church members. One day, senior pastor invited me to dinner and thanked me for my effort and encouraged me to continue the good work. Additionally, he gave me one advice that I should try to use my word to praise young people for every little they do correctly. His advice changed my behavior toward young church members. After that, I felt more comfortable working with young people and more of them came to me when they have problem. My senior pastor told me my weakness in a way that I will not feel hurt but be encouraged to change. And it worked. |
| Con.  Restate | How can you speak to other believers properly? Speak harmlessly and helpfully. It is the best way to response to other believers. It can be helpful to make the healthy Christian community.  Remember that you can build community or destroy it by the way you speak. |
| Advice | You have responsibility of speaking harmlessly and God will judge you accordingly at the last day (Matt 12:36)  You should use words wisely by power of Spirit.  Mind your language wherever you are. |
| End | Watch your tongue. Use words to build community, not to destroy it. If you use words well, you can benefit lives of others and your community. |
| Prayer | Father, thanks for reminding the importance of speaking. Guide us not to hurt others by words but help others. Give us your wisdom for it and lead us to do good works by words like comforting, encouraging, explaining the truth. Help us to use words more wisely at any circumstances. Pray in Jesus name. Amen. |