

November 28, 2021

# Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

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## Words

By Kyle Campbell

**W**ords are used every day by everyone. There are all kinds of words: generous, stingy, loving, hateful, kind, unkind, angry, peaceful, loud, quiet, etc. The words that Christians use are very important. Our words will either draw people to faith in Christ and a deep walk with God, or our words will drive people away. Consider some of the types of words Christians should use.

**There are calm words (Pro. 15:1).** I know you have heard men or women explode in anger and you might have even been the recipient of a tirade of words that have left you reeling. We cannot control the temperature, harshness, or volume of the words of another. We can, however, try to control the temperature, harshness, and volume of our own words. A soft answer, in dealing with people who have done wrong or offended us, will also help keep us from a lot of angry, violent reactions (cp. Pro. 3:30; 19:11).

**There are cautious words (Pro. 10:19; 11:13).** Have you ever said something you were sorry for later? We say things especially in anger that we do not really mean, and yet the damage is done! Have you noticed that the more a person talks, the more likely he or she is to say something they should not say? When we put no damper on our words, we are likely to say things that are either sinful or disturbing to someone else (Psa. 141:3). Be cautious of gossip, slander, and tale-bearing. They destroy instead of edify.

**There are corrective words (Pro. 11:14; 25:12).** You are probably familiar with two friends in the Bible. The older man was named Jonathan. He was the king's son. The younger man was David. They were good friends and I am sure David was able to learn and be encouraged by the words and actions of Jonathan. One time David was on the run, fleeing for his life from King Saul, and Jonathan strengthened him (1 Sam. 23:16). Who is your David? Who can you encourage this week? There are times when we all need someone to stand beside us.

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**There are commendable words (Pro. 25:11).** Whatever “apples of gold in pictures of silver” refers to, we are being told that the right word spoken at the right time by the right person is commendable. There have been times when you have needed a word of encouragement or correction. Or there was a time when you needed to hear the gospel, and someone shared it with you. These are words fitly spoken. Thank God for the people who have fitly spoken in your life.

Ask God to give you a chance this week to share the right words with the right people at the right time. Col. 4:5-6 says, *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* Use your words wisely. Your salvation and the salvation of others depend on it.

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## “Keep It Simple”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The above statement is the “mantra” of a friend of mine. When it comes to the preaching and teaching of God’s word, he tells me often, “Keep it simple.” This sentiment was impressed upon my mind even further when a sister told me, “The main problem that high school students have today is not which church to go to, but whether or not to believe in God in the first place.” Think about it: We live in a society that has so pushed God aside that high school students need to be convinced about the very existence of God!

This sister’s observation told me that, I need to “keep it simple” as I preach. It also tells me that I need to be preaching and teaching these “simple” sermons not only to the teenagers, but also to the PARENTS of teenagers! After all, children are the students of their parents. Therefore, if parents do not expose their children to God, the Bible, to truth, etc., then how can we expect them to know these things? God has placed the responsibility of teaching with parents (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:6-9, 11:18-21; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; etc.).

Yet, “Keep it simple,” does not mean make things simplistic, or speak down to people. Rather, it places responsibility on the teacher to make sure things are said in a way that folks can understand. Brethren have said for many years that one does not need to be a “Greek scholar” to go to Heaven. True. We do not need to have Ph. D.’s in order to understand the Bible! The apostle Paul said, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4). Jesus encouraged reading and searching the Scriptures,

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for He knew that in so doing, mankind can understand the truth and follow it (Jn. 5:39, 17:17; Rev. 1:3). Not only did He state this truth, but He lived it (Acts 1:1)! When Jesus spoke, *“the common people heard him gladly”* (Mk. 12:37). Those who listened to Jesus were often the “unknowns,” the “rejected” or “general population.” The social “elites,” and their ilk did not like Jesus. In fact, they conspired against Him to keep Him from preaching (Jn. 11:47-53). After Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the apostles continued preaching His simple message (Acts 2, etc.). When they preached that simple message, the “elites,” marveled, at their words, noting, *“... they had been with Jesus”* (Acts 4:13).

Therefore, to “keep it simple” means to preach like Jesus and the apostles. Can we think of any better examples to follow than Christ and His apostles when one wants to communicate God’s will in the best way? I can’t! When we determine to preach and teach as Christ, we will “keep it simple” for all listening to the truth. Let no man get so caught up in his own ability and talents that he forgets to “hide behind the cross” when preaching! Keep it simple so that the “common people” can hear the truth, believe it, and obey it! Start at home!!

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## Clean Out The Attic

By Kyle Campbell

Sometimes, our attics need cleaning. If someone has lived in their home for 20 or 30 years, a lot of stuff can accumulate. In fact, most of the time it is far more material than one might think! Because of the accumulation, every once in a while it becomes necessary to clean out the attic. Any time is a good time for introspection. It may be that your attic needs cleaning.

It may be that we need to clean the attic with respect to God. It may be that we have not been as faithful to Him as we should be. It might take several forms, but the end result is the same. As all of us are stewards of the mysteries of God, it is required that stewards be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). If this is in any way lacking, let’s change that for the new year.

It may be that we need to clean the attic with respect to ourselves. It may be that we need to remove a whole lot of impure thoughts and concentrate on what is good (Philippians 4:8). What the mind thinks on will ultimately produce what the body acts on. So to preserve our purity before God, we have to make sure that we do our very best to suppress our ungodly or impure thoughts.

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It may be that we need to clean the attic with respect to others. If we harbor a grudge or bitterness toward our brethren, we make forgiveness between ourselves and God impossible (Matthew 6:14-15). If you want God's forgiveness, you had better forgive your brother. Why allow some perceived wrong to stew and fester in your mind? In the end, it only hurts you.

Take today and examine and test yourself (2 Corinthians 13:5). If something needs to be made right with God, then go to Him in prayer. If you need to change your life, then do so. If you need to correct something with your brother, then go to him. Life is too short and the stakes too high for us to not be right with God.



**F**or God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. — *John 3:16*

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***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

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**December Birthdays:**

The 8th Melton Yarbrough; 14th Jacob Hisaw; 16th Doug Morgan; 20th Ian, Landon, and Kevin Collins; 23rd Ricky Thomas; 24th Robin McCartney; 29th Gail Justice; 30th Alicia Threadgill

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**Sunday**

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.  
Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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