

Connected by words

Key Scripture: Eph. 4:25-32

Main point: Words are powerful: for good or for evil.

Key points:

1. Eph. 4:25-27: spiritual truth when spoken in love honors the relationship, we have with each other: brother and sister in Christ. Anger becomes a sin when we turn it into resentment, hostility, retaliation, division. Reconciliation is key to preventing Satan from creating division.
2. V. 28-29: avoid evil but do good. This means to share with those in need of the household of faith.
3. V. 30-32: Paul associates a cluster of attitudes that bring about division and harvest in Christian relationships Satan's work of disunity. Paul counters this with a cluster of attitudes that harvest Christ-like spirit of unity. This is the Spirit-filled life.
4. See John 8:44. Jesus refers to Satan as "father of lies". Our words express our attitudes and this can sustain unity or work against it.

Talk it over:

1. Have you ever been on the receiving end of negative words? How did you feel?
2. Have you ever been on the receiving end of positive words? How did you feel?
3. Why are "words" emphasized so strongly by Paul?
4. How does Satan feed on "words of destruction" that Paul lists in these verses? What is Satan's "end" game with this?
5. How do our words reflect attitudes and behavior in our relationships?

Dig deeper:

1. CCC#820-822. Fostering unity.

Scripture memory verse:

Ephesians 4:26-27: "'In your anger do not sin"<sup>[a]</sup>: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:26-27.