

Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate

by Jerry Bridges

Session 7: Judgmentalism & Sins of the Tongue (Ch. 17 & 19)

► **Chapter 17: Judgmentalism**

1. Subtle Sin of Judging: Often practiced under the guise of being zealous for what is right (pg. 141).
2. Our main trouble is that we tend to equate our opinions with truth, judging others in issues such as animal rights, how to dress for church, styles of music in worship, Bible versions, and use of alcohol. It is easy to become judgmental over issues the Bible does not address or address with the clarity we would like. We then hide our judgmentalism under the cloak of Christian convictions.
3. Two specific issues that spawned judgmentalism in the church at Rome:
 - A) Vegetarianism verses “eat whatever you want” (Rom 14:3-4).
 - B) Observing certain days as holy days (Rom 14:5).
4. When judging, we are arrogating to ourselves the role of God. Jesus said to first remove the log from your own eye before attempting to remove a speck from another person’s eye (Mt 7:1-5).
5. Doctrinal Judgmentalism: Even when standing for truth, be careful not to demonize people or degenerate into character assassination (pg. 146).
6. Critical Spirit: looking for and finding fault with everyone and everything, whether it be people, churches, events, anything. Satan is known as the “accuser of the brethren” (Rev 12:10). Baranabus’ name means “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36).
7. Issues of Christian practice and liberty can be ambiguous, but each one should be fully convinced in his own mind (Rom 14:5) and hold convictions in humility.
8. Theology of Judging:
 - A) Do not judge the sin of those outside the church (1 Cor 5:12-13).
 - B) View the lost with compassion and caution. Do not be naïve, but walk in wisdom and innocence (Mt 9:36; Mt 10:16-33).
 - C) Do not judge the heart or motive of anyone (1 Cor 4:1-5; 1 Sam 16:7), but inspect the fruit of those near you (Mt 7:16).
 - D) Judge clear sin in the church with Biblical truth, humility, love, gentle strength, and a desire for holiness and restoration (Mt 7:1-6; Mt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5:1-13; Gal 5:19-21; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Rom 1:24-32).

► **Chapter 19: Sins of the Tongue**

1. Sinful speech: any words that tend to tear down another person—gossip, slander, critical speech, lying, harsh words, sarcasm, ridicule (pg. 159).
 - A) Gossip: spreading unfavorable information about someone even if it is true.
 - B) Slander: making a false statement or misrepresentation about another person that defames or damages the person’s reputation.
 - C) Critical speech: negative comments about someone that may be actually true but doesn’t need to be said.
 - D) Other sinful speech: harsh words, sarcasm, insults, and ridicule.

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2. Jesus said we will give account for every careless word (Mt 12:36).
3. Key Verse: "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Eph 4:29).
4. Behind all negative speech is a sinful heart (Mt 12:34; Ps 19:14).

► **Proverbs on the Tongue**

The Lord Gives Wisdom Pr. 2:6
From His Mouth comes Knowledge
From His Mouth comes Understanding

The Wicked Mouth (19)

- Perverse Mouth & Heart 4:24; 10:31,32; 17:20
- Corrupt Mouth 6:12-15
- Overwhelmed by Violence 10:11
- Lacks Judgment 10:12, 21
- Spreads Slander 10:18
- Words are Many* 10:19
- Mouth Destroys & Derides Neighbor 11:9,12
- Untrustworthy / Betrays a Confidence 11:13
- Tells Lies 12:17,19; 12:22; 26:28
- Reckless Words (Heart blurts out) 12:18; 12:23; 15:2, 28
- Harsh Words 15:1
- Deceitful Tongue (Crushes Others) 15:4; 17:20
- Gossip (Separates Close Friends) 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 26:20,22
- Loves to Quarrel 17:19; 26:21
- Delights in Airing His Own Opinions 18:2,4
- Answers Before Listening / Speaks in Haste* 18:13; 29:20
- Deceptive / Charming Speech 26:24-26
- Flattering Mouth 26:28; 28:23; 29:5
- Boastful 27:1,2

The Result

- Trapped by Sinful Talk 12:13*
- Stirs up Anger 30:33*
- Invites Ruin 10:13; 18:6,7*

The Lord hates . . .

- Lying tongue Pr. 6:16-19*
- False witness
- Man who Stirs up Dissension

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The Godly Mouth (15)

- Mouth is Fountain of Life Pr. 10:11
- Full of Wisdom (commends knowledge) 10:12; 10:31; 15:2
- Shows Discernment 10:12
- Holds Tongue 10:19; 11:12;17:27-28; 21:23
- Words are Valuable (Choice Silver) 10:20
- Lips Nourish Many* 10:21
- Knows what is fitting 10:32
- Trustworthy / Keeps a Secret 11:13
- Truthful / Honest 12:17
- Words Bring Healing 12:18; 15:4
- Words are Gentle (Persuasive) 15:1; 25:15
- Heart Weighs Answers & Guides Mouth 15:28; 16:23
- Words are Pleasant (Sweet and Healing) 16:24
- Confronts Sin / Rebukes the Discerning 17:10; 28:23
- Self-Control 29:11

The Result

- Escapes Trouble 12:13*
- Words Endure Forever (Eternal Impact) 12:19*
- The Lord Delights in Truthful Men 12:22*

What am I to do?

- 1) Repent of Sin James 4:7-10
- 2) Ask God to Change Your Heart Matthew 12:34-36*
- 3) Memorize Scripture
- 4) Realize the Power of Words Pr. 18:20-21*
 - A) Bring Benefit or Tragedy
 - B) Power of Life and Death
- 5) Refrain from Sinful Speech
 - A) Refuse to Tear Down, Gossip, Slander, Lie, Quarrel, Flatter, etc.
 - B) Learn to Listen More
- 6) Use Your Mouth to the Glory of God
 - A) Love God & Love People Mt. 22:37-40*
 - B) Let Your Heart Guide Your Mouth Pr. 15:28; 16:23
 - C) Speak the Truth in Love Eph. 4:15
 - D) Build Others Up Eph. 4:29

For This Week:

Read Chapters 13 & 18.

Class Discussion: