

The Power of Words

It's a Mad, Mad World, part 3

Pastor Craig Ferguson

Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

James 3:2 (NLT)

Ways we hurt people with words

1. Sarcasm

Like a madman shooting deadly arrows is the man who deceives his neighbor and says 'I was only joking!'
Proverbs 26:18-19 (NIV)

Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.
Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)

2. Careless remarks

Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.
Proverbs 13:3 (NLT)

3. Complaining

Do everything without complaining or arguing.
Philippians 2:14 (NIV)

4. Gossip and Slander

...those who obey God... speak the truth and don't spread gossip...

Psalms 15:2 (CEV)

5. Lying

Lips that lie are disgusting to the LORD, but honest people are his delight.

Proverbs 12:22

(GW)

6. Insensitivity

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.

Proverbs

15:1 (NIV)

The negative consequences of words that hurt

1. Words that hurt damage relationships

An evil man stirs up dissension, and gossip separates close friends.
Proverbs 16:28 (NIV)

2. Words that hurt damage yourself

He who guards his lips guards his soul, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.
Proverbs 13:3 (NIV)

3. Words that hurt grieve God

Do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. ...Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander.
Ephesians 4:30-31 (NLT)

How to control your speech

1. Temper your reactions

The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words.
Proverbs 15:28 (NLT)

2. Filter your words through Jesus

I've given you an example that you should follow. *John 13:15 (GW)*

Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. *Philippians 2:5 (GW)*

3. Ask God's for help

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*
(NLT)

4. Keep working at it

Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. *Matthew 24:14 (NLT)*