

“If Anyone Speaks ...”

1 Pet. 4:11

Introduction:

- A. God has given us great gift of speech.
 - 1. It is powerful (Jas. 3:2-5) — Recognized by diplomats and demagogues.
 - 2. It is flexible — Tool for evil or good, distress or comfort.
 - 3. It is elevating — Places us above rest of God’s creation.
- B. God will strictly hold us accountable for our speech. (Matt. 12:36).
- C. If anyone speaks:

Discussion:

I. Let Him Speak Scripturally (1 Pet. 4:11).

- A. By knowing the contents of the scriptures (Acts 17:11).
- B. By respecting the inspiration of the scriptures (2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 2:4,5,13).
- C. By respecting the authority of the scriptures (1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Thess 2:13)
- D. By respecting the sanctity of the scriptures (Rev. 22:18,19).

II. Let Him Speak Cleanly (Col. 3:8).

- A. Because filthy speech reveals a corrupt mind. (Matt. 12:34).
- B. Because filthy speech often reveals a lazy mind — too lazy to learn wholesome words.
- C. Because filthy speech often reveals an insensitive mind — Offends many good people.
 - 1. Would you chew tobacco and spit on another? Yet “spit” out filthy words.
 - 2. Love demands respect for the feelings of others.
- D. Because filthy speech often reveals insecure mind.
 - 1. Used to get attention.
 - 2. Christians do not seek such attention. (Cf. Mt. 6:1-4).

III. Let Him Speak Carefully (Col. 4:6).

- A. As to *what* he speaks (Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:8).
- B. As to *how* he speaks (Prov. 25:11; 15:1; Tit. 1:13).
- C. As to *when* he speaks (Eccl. 3:7; Acts 8:32; 18:9)
 (“Silence sometimes golden, sometimes just plain yellow”)
- D. As to *where* he speaks (cf. 1 Cor. 14:34; Acts 13:45,46).
- E. As to *why* he speaks (Phil. 1:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:5).

Conclusion:

- A. Use speech scripturally, cleanly, and carefully.
- B. Use speech to confess Christ today. (Rom. 10:10).
- C. Use speech to confess sins today. (1 John 1:9).