



Rock Creek Baptist Church
Apr 15, 2018

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Worth It: The Ways We Fight - Luke 6:45
What does the Bible have to say about the words we use against each other?
What hope is there to turn things around in our relationships?

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Announcements

Join us for Covenant Sunday on the 22nd! This is a great time of renewing our covenant with God and each other, followed by a fellowship pot luck lunch.

Story: 2 hour delay
Story: Spite houses



Kensington London: Her renovation plans denied by neighbors. Notice the non-completed last stripe.



Cambridge Massachusetts: Neighbor wouldn't buy his plot of land. Occupied now by interior decorator



Plum Island: Condition of the divorce was he would build a house like they used to live in. This one is full of poison.

When we hold onto bitterness it destroys us as well.

GALATIANS 5:13-15

For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through love serve and seek the best for one another. For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is fulfilled in one precept, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF [that is, you shall have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit]." But if you bite and devour one another [in bickering and strife], watch out that you [along with your entire fellowship] are not consumed by one another.

Have you ever felt in a fight like both of you have been devoured? There were clearly no winners?

Luke 6:45

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matthew 15:11

What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

What's in your heart might come out of your mouth. We might say "I didn't mean that" when really we just didn't mean for it to come out!

“Watch your thoughts, they become words;
watch your words, they become actions;
watch your actions, they become habits;
watch your habits, they become character;
watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”

James 3:4-6

Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Your tongue can steer the course of your life.

1) All good relationships require communication

2) It's important HOW we communicate

a) Stick to facts

b) Stick to the current topic

Proverbs 12:18

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

3) Handle conflict IMMEDIATELY

a) Some of the worst words are...we need to talk...but later. If it doesn't have to wait, don't make it wait.

Ephesians 4:26-27

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Matthew 5:23-24

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

1 Corinthians 7:4-6 indicates that a man and wife shouldn't distance themselves from each other except to pray and come back. Walking away from the problem is no solution but kneeling before God alone and then together is.

Exercise: Letter writing

"We teach people how to treat us" This is true not just in how you react to others, but in the seeds you sow

Matthew 7:1-3

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

Matthew 7:16-20

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

We plant poison oak in others and expect to reap an apple tree

Is there a "Cold War" between you and someone? Silence also speaks volumes

A word about "Yes Dear..."

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Story: Statues placed throughout the kingdom in the King's Image

How can an ambassador represent the King if they don't know Him? If you know Him, change will happen from the inside out. What comes out of our mouth is from the overflow of our heart.