

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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KINDS OF SPEAKING

John Edwards

Your attention is being directed to different kinds of speaking mentioned throughout the word of the Lord.

CHILDREN TEACHING

SPEAKING. In the fifth book of Moses, the Lord’s people were admonished to lay up the Lord’s words in their heart and *“teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (Dt. 11:19). How long has it been since your children heard their mother and father speaking the Lord’s word?

BOLD IN THE LORD

SPEAKING. The kind of speaking done by Paul and Barnabas in the Iconium synagogue is the kind of speaking that needs to be heard today. Acts 14:3 records, *“Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord....”* The trend today is to speak softly, tread lightly so as to not step on any toes or ruffle any feathers. Whatever happened to just telling it like it is and letting the chips fall where they may?

PERVERSE THINGS

SPEAKING. As Paul met with the Ephesian elders to bid them farewell he warned, *“after my*

departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30). False teachers, without and within, can be identified by their speaking. When one speaks that which is crooked and perverted (Gal. 1:6-9), *“contrary to sound doctrine”* (1 Tim. 1:10), he speaks perverse things. Such is the language of apostasy!

TRUTH IN LOVE

SPEAKING. One way the Lord’s church grows is by *“speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”* (Eph. 4:15).

PSALMS, HYMNS AND

SPIRITUAL SONGS SPEAKING.

Ephesians 5:19 commands, *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”* This singing speaking is exclusive. It excludes solos, duets, quartets, special choirs, mechanical instruments, vocal instrumentation (mimicking the sounds of a mechanical instrument) and whatever else men may come up with.

EVIL SPEAKING. Since the mouth speaks from the heart (Mt. 12:34), this kind of speaking reflects a heart lacking

in love. Charity, or love, *“thinketh no evil”* (1 Cor. 13:5). Evil speaking ought never be heard among the people of God. *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice”* (Eph. 4:31). *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings”* (1 Pet. 2:1).

MUCH SPEAKING. This is the speaking of the heathen. Jesus taught, *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking”* (Mt. 6:7). Much speaking is also the speaking of fools. Solomon stated, *“a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words”* (Eccl. 5:3).

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” (Ps. 19:14).

GOSPEL MEETING

with
Ron Halbrook

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

Mark your calendar!

WHAT DISCIPLINE DOES

Nicolas Edwards

Discipline from the Lord yields fruit when it is exercised (Heb. 12:11). What does it do?

TESTS US. Walking after the Lord, fearing Him, keeping His commandments, obeying His voice, serving Him and cleaving unto Him requires discipline (Dt. 13:1-11). God proves His people through this process (Dt. 13:3). Will we be turned away from God or will we put the evil away in obedience to God? When we do not practice discipline, we fail the test and do not love God.

MANIFESTS LOVE. *“For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth”* (Prov. 3:12). *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: But he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes”* (Prov. 13:24). When we discipline, we manifest love for God in keeping His commandments (Dt. 13:3; 1 Jn. 5:3).

DRIVES FOOLISHNESS FAR. *“Foolishness is bound in*

the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” (Prov. 21:15). *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”* (Prov. 29:15).

DELIVERS HIS SOUL FROM HELL. *“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die, thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell”* (Prov. 23:13-14).

SEPARATES THE WISE FROM THE SCORNER. *“Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee”* (Prov. 9:8).

PRODUCES GROWTH. Discipline was practiced by God upon Ananias and Sapphira when they lied unto the Holy Ghost (Acts 5). They were put to death! This shows God’s attitude toward lying. After discipline was practiced, *“believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women”* (Acts 5:14).

SAVES. *“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are*

gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:4-5).

PURIFIES. *“Your glorying is not good, know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened”* (1 Cor. 5:6-7).

PRODUCES SHAME. *“And if any obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed”* (2 Th. 3:14).

MAKES ONE PERFECT. The inspired word of God accomplishes this (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

YIELDS PEACEABLE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Discipline produces right living which makes for peace as it straitens the path of the unruly who deviate from the way of the Lord (Heb. 12).

When we do not discipline, we are doing the worst possible thing for our brethren.

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Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
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