

FREE SPEECH: WHY OUR WORDS MATTER



1 Our words are one way that we reflect who God is. How often do you truly consider the significance of your words?

2 Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. If God's Word is what equips us for "every good work", how often do you consider His Word before using your own words? What impact might that have on your speech?

3 Read Matthew 12:33-37. Jesus says that our mouths speak what our hearts are full of. What do you think this means?
(In context, He is rebuking the Pharisees, getting them to realize that their words reveal the true condition of their hearts.)

4 If our words reveal what is in our hearts, what do YOUR words reveal about where your heart is?
(Ex. Gossip = Insecurity, Anger = Control, Complaining = Discontentment, Boasting = Pride, Excuses = Laziness, etc.)

5 Read Proverbs 4:23. A way we guard our hearts is by filtering what goes into it. What are you currently consuming that you need to get rid of?
(Ex. explicit music, inappropriate conversations at school, etc.)

6 Read Matthew 12:36-37. Imagine we played a recording of every word you spoke within the last week right now. Would you be encouraged or embarrassed by that?

7 What do you think Jesus means when he says that we will be justified or condemned by our words?
('Justified' here means "shown to be righteous", meaning our words are evidence that we have been saved and made righteous by God.)