Powerful introductions

Hello my name is ….. Grace

Today, last week looking at how the Apostle Paul taught Christians to live together

NIV | Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Raise a WHITE FLAG on our words that they may reflect our identity as Christians being sincere, godly and honoring to God.

**Words have the power to**

**change people**

**change situations**

Video of blind man begging…today is a beautiful day and I can’t see it

**Surrendered words**

**Give glory to God** not me

**Hebrews 13:15 (NIV84) — 15** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.

**Gives thanks and praise to God** not just you

**Colossians 3:17 (NIV84) — 17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**James 3:9–10 (NIV84) — 9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. **10** Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Plans for a special event, can’t find babysitter

Long day at work, come home to empty kitchen and everyone watching tv

Customer who complains

**Surrendered words are:**

**gentle and gracious**

**Colossians 4:6 (NIV84) — 6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Love is gentle and gracious…doesn’t mean we are weak

**kind** **and tactful**

**2 Timothy 2:24–25 (NIV84) — 24** And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

Appropriate

**instructive and edifying**

**Colossians 3:16 (NIV84) — 16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Constructive…addition not subtraction

**prudent and restrained**

**Proverbs 17:27 (NIV84) — 27** A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

**James 1:19 (NIV84) — 19** My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Necessary…talking to be heard…to fill space

**It is honest and unadorned**

**Matthew 5:37 (NIV84) — 37** Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

**Proverbs 28:23 (NIV84) — 23** He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

It’s about love, not salesmanship

**truthful and sincere**

**Zechariah 8:16 (NIV84) — 16** These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts;

**2 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV84) — 2** Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

Sincere … from loving heart

**wise**

**Proverbs 13:14 (NIV84) — 14** The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

**Acts 6:10 (NIV84) — 10** but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

Words can be all the others and still not be wise. Wisdom comes from hearing and considering…not just talking.

Practice…in prayer