

Pursue Christ-Like Speech



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Have you ever gotten a bag of apples at the store? What happens if one of the apples in the bag is rotten? If you don't get rid of it, that rotten apple will cause the good apples to spoil and go bad too.

If we're not careful our speech can be a lot like that rotten apple. When we say bad things it can have a corrupting effect on others. It can harm their relationship with God, other people, even with themselves. Here are a few examples of corrupting talk. Which of these do you need to get rid of?

- ☹ Unkind words tear people down, hurt their feelings or make them sad and discouraged.
- ☹ Mocking or teasing words might tempt others to get angry with you. They might even cause a fight.
- ☹ Foul or dirty words may cause other people to follow your bad example and use dirty words, too.

Instead of corrupting talk, God wants us to say things that are good and helpful for building up and encouraging people. Here are some ideas to get you started. Can you think of any others?

- ☺ Encouraging words - Tell your brother or sister what you like most about them. Compliment them for something they're good at. Urge them to do their best. Tell them how much you love them.
- ☺ Thankful words - Thank your dad and mom for something they've done for you recently. Tell them how thankful you are to have them as your parents. Give them a hug and a kiss.
- ☺ Offer to help - Ask, "What can I do to help you?" Then say, "Yes, I'd be glad to do that!"