

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Ephesians 4

**Singing:** 266:1-3 – 140:1-2 – 21:1-4 – 386:1, 4, 6 – 90:1, 2, 5, 6

Intro: One sin is like a *snowball rolling downhill*

A. Principle: *sin is never a single sin but always leads or involve more sin*

B. This principle is the spine of James 5:20 *Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

C. God's *caring will* also extends over our words (9<sup>th</sup> commandment)

1. Communication skill is one of *the reflections of our Creator in us*

### **WHOLESOME WORDS**

I. The value of wholesome words II. The good use wholesome words

#### **I. THE VALUE OF WHOLE SOME WORDS OR COMMUNICATION**

A. Matt 12:36 proves that *words matter – even to God*

1. Eph 4:29 and Prov 15. 44 affirm this

2. Words matter to God mainly for three reasons

1<sup>st</sup> because it reflects something very special of Him in us

2. because use of words is a life or death matter

3. because use of words brings closeness – intimacy in relationships

B. This intro shows that the 9<sup>th</sup> isn't just about 'Bee-Honest' but "Bee-Nice"

#### **II. THE GOOD USE OF WHOLESOME WORDS**

**A. Good use is to tell the truth about a neighbor in a court session**

1. this *truth telling is so important* that He orders death to false witness

**B. Good use to tell the truth in all non-court contexts**

1. Jesus taught us to *let our 'yes be yes and no be no'*

a. we are to be countercultural: *for lying is most common sin*

b. Lord commands us love & speak truth & to deal in truth

● Eph. 4:15, 25 is God's word- medicine (also Eph. 5:26!)

**C. Good use is to minister grace through each ear to the heart** Eph. 4:29

1. What separate chief friends (marriage/church/friendships)?
  - a. the devil's smallest tool: *our tongues* (Prov. 16:28 – Prov. 17:9)
  
  - b. taste God's hatred for the evil of the tongue: Prov. 6:16-17

**D. Good use is to refuse to use a good thing for bad cause: words!**

1. Don't twist the truth (Gen. 3:1-5)
  
2. Don't exaggerate the truth (Gen. 3:1-5)
  - a. to exaggerate is to *inflate the facts* to promote yourself
  
  - b. it may succeed to gain admiration, but it drains a relationship!
  
3. Don't gossip truths: *gossip is truth turned devil's advocate*
  - a. gossip is *spreading 'truth'* with an evil purpose
  
  - b. quite clothing this *devil's wolf in sheep's clothing of false religion*
  
  - c. before you share, be sure to do a truth and self-check
  
4. Don't slander
  - a. slander is character assassination
    - Jesus and many of His followers endured this
  
5. Don't flatter with truths or untruths to get favors or deceive
  - a. Flattery is giving insincere praise only to advantage yourself
  
  - b. Flattery and gossip are evil siblings

Closing Observations:

A. Besides *talking with words* there is *talking without words* that break 9<sup>th</sup>

B. If you face the *pain of sins against the 9<sup>th</sup>* consider the Great High Priest

*Who [Jesus] did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth;  
Who, when reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not;  
but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.*

1 Peter 2:22-23