

Anticipation

Living In Light Of Eternity

How We Speak

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | March 16, 2025

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All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

– 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (ESV)

How We Speak:

Our words do not come from error (verse 3).

Our words do not come from impurity (verse 3).

Our words do not come from deceit (verse 3).

Our words are not to please others (verse 4).

Our words are not flattery (verse 5).

Our words are not out of greed (verse 5).

Our words are not for seeking glory from people (verse 6).

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How We Speak

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What does Paul mean when he says that their words do not come from "error, impurity, or deceit" (1 Thessalonians 2:3)? How can we apply this principle to our own speech?
2. Why is it important for Christians to speak with integrity and sincerity rather than manipulation? Can you think of situations where people use deceitful speech, even within Christian circles?
3. How can we ensure that our words are focused on pleasing God rather than seeking human approval? What challenges might arise when trying to do this?
4. Paul emphasizes that he did not use flattery in his speech (v. 5). How does flattery differ from genuine encouragement, and why is it dangerous in ministry and relationships?
5. In verse 6, Paul states that he did not seek glory from people. Why do you think it is tempting to desire recognition and praise for our words and actions? How can we guard against this?
6. How does Paul's example challenge the way we communicate the gospel to others? In what ways can we ensure our speech remains Christ-centered?
7. What are some practical ways to evaluate our own motives when speaking to others, whether in ministry, work, or personal relationships?
8. How can we cultivate a heart that speaks with purity, truth, and selflessness? What role does prayer and accountability play in ensuring our words honor God?