

CHRISTIAN CONVERSATION

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INTRODUCTION

- A. We communicate three main ways: touch
 - movement (kinesics)
 - facial expressions
 - gestures
 - talking (words and how you say them)
- B. The capacity for speech marks us as human beings
 - 1. vs. animals, which cannot very well pass on to other generations what they have learned

RESPONSIBILITY Thomas Mann: *"Speech is civilization."*

- 2. Speech enables word-revelation from God to profit us.

PRIVILEGE

- C. Consider how many (virtues and) vices are connected with speaking.

lying	blasphemy	taking the Lord's name in vain
boasting	swearing	insulting
gossiping		filthy talking

- D. James 3:2b-12

"We are known by the company we keep."
"We are what we read."
"We are what we do."
"We are what we say and we say what we are."

OUR CONVERSATION . . .

I. REVEALS WHAT WE ARE.

Conversation is the way we let other people see down inside us: *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks"* (Matthew 12:34).

- A. Fear

insecurity	<u>emotional overlay</u>
weakness	aggressive/hostile talk/vulgarism
feeling out of self-control	competitive talk

1. <u>Four subjects</u>	2. <u>Effects</u>	3. <u>Situation</u>
sex	shock value	frustration
excrement	unconventionality	low self-image
	impropriety	
race	dehumanizes/depersonalizes/assaults	
deity	depersonalizes	

As a person strengthens and ages, these verbal behaviors tend to disappear.

B. Inner conflict

Christians often do not talk appropriately while at home or at work.

C. Note the value of counseling

Communication gives release; it “gets it off our chest.”

We conquer our fears by capturing them with words. This is the same thing turned for good that goes into vulgarism when it is turned rotten.

II. CONNECTS US WITH OTHER PERSONS.

Communication is a way of transferring ourselves to another person.

The importance of communication in <u>healing</u>	family
<u>maintaining</u>	relationships in marriage
<u>improving</u>	church
	business

A. Reveals ourselves

B. Builds up the other person

1. Edification/teaching/prophesying
2. Encouragement
3. Affirmation: Praising other people establishes bonds.
4. Compliment (blessing)

C. Elicits the other's self

Thanksgiving is gratitude expressed.

We get into the habit of not talking so that other people do not know what is on our minds.

RESULTING GUIDELINE: DETERMINE WHAT WE SAY BY WHETHER IT
BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS

III. SETS THE DIRECTION FOR OUR FUTURE.

A. With other people and with what we can and will do together

honesty/lying example

B. Ultimate destiny

Matthew 12:37: *"You will be justified by your words, and you will be condemned by them."*

IV. OUR CONVERSATION CAN BE CHANGED.

Conversation patterns are kinds of habits. Habits can be changed by substituting some acceptable behavior. Instead of trying to stop certain conversation patterns, replace them with something else.

A. Start doing things for people that will change our attitudes toward them.

Make a deliberate effort to encourage and compliment.

B. Start doing things that will raise our level of God-consciousness.

It will direct us away from habitually swearing and using the Lord's name in vain.

God is the silent listener to every conversation.

C. Spiritual exercises will strengthen the inner self.

Remove the unnamed fears that erupt in unacceptable talk.
anxieties
distrust