

"How To Keep Your Foot Out Of Your Mouth"

Proverbs 8:1-8

Introduction: How many here have said something that they wish they had not said? I am sure most of us have at some time been caught in this predicament haven't we?? Thinking along this line someone noted that it is easier to save face if we would keep the lower half shut. You see, every time we speak, our mind is on parade so with that thought in mind, lets look at some ways to help us keep out of the language traps we seem to fall into so easily. To do that, first, we need to always seek to

I. SPEAK PROFITABLE WORDS

1 Corinthians 7:35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

Paul said he was intending to speak profitable words. Notice he said, I am not speaking to place restrictions on you, but to help you benefit What sort of words can we speak that will help others? I want to look at some examples: We can speak words that are

Profitable for **saving the lost**. If we never get around to talking about salvation and how to receive it, how can men ever be saved.

Profitable for **strengthening the weak and encouraging the fainthearted**. How many here have experienced someone giving you a word of encouragement when you were at a low point in your life? Did that word stick with you? Kind words are short to speak, but their echoes are endless,

Profitable for the **building of relationships and friendships**. We never seem to have enough friends in life and we never can if we insist on sticking our foot in our mouth by speaking words to others that are not profitable for the building up of friendships and relationships

Profitable for the **upbringing and training of our children**. Words of encouragement, words of honest praise, words of discipline if needed, words of positive expectations you have for them, not to be perfect, but to be their best because they are your children and you believe in them.

A second help in keeping our foot out of our mouth is to

II. SPEAK PURE WORDS

Psalm 19:14 *May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.* Pure words are pleasing to the Lord aren't they?

Ephesians 4:29 *Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

We should use scriptural language as much as possible. When we speak the word of God we keep our foot out of our mouth and avoid arguments. If I give my opinion others can argue with me but if I give God's word their argument is with him. Right??

We should use spotless language. Have you ever been around someone who curses every other word? I have because I used to be that way myself, but I found out later in life that I could carry on a pretty good conversation using spotless language instead of such language as I used to.

How are our words when we speak to others? Do they walk away saying to themselves that they look forward to speaking with you again or do they try and avoid you because of the way you speak? We should use simple understandable language. If I stand here and speak to you and you walk out saying, what did he say, then I have wasted your time haven't I?

III. SPEAK PLEASANT WORDS

Proverbs 16:24 says *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.* He who makes waves must be prepared to swallow salt water. **Don't forget,** Make your words sweet; you may have to eat them So to make them pleasant and profitable, use words that praise God and promote what he is doing rather than what we think we are.

IV. SPEAK PREPARED WORDS

Proverbs 18:13 *What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!*
Proverbs 15:28 *The godly think before speaking; the wicked spout evil words.*

Sparkling conversation is made by filling the mouth with gems of thought. To do that, in other words, to fill your mouth with gems and not your foot you might want to try the following

- Fill your heart with scripture Psalm 119:11 says *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

We might be able to say it like this: *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you by hurting others, speaking nonsense, and other stupid things I often do when I open my mouth.*

- Focus on speaking right, not what makes you feel good. Sometimes it feels good to think we got the last word in a discussion doesn't it? But is that the best thing for keeping our foot out of our mouth? **Think about it this way:** Blessed is the man who abstains from giving windy evidence of the fact that he has nothing to say
- Find God's will for your conversation. Sometimes it is God's will not to say anything. Remember, there is a time for everything. Ecclesiastes 3:7b says *A time to be quiet and a time to speak up.* Speech is silver, but silence is golden. Did you know that if you are a person of few words, you won't have as many to take back?

We all say more than we should at times and in the process we can get ourselves in a pickle so I trust these thoughts will help us in the future to avoid that old shoe leather on our tongues. It would be better to leave people wondering why you didn't talk than why you did.

In closing we see we all need help with this issue. The best help we can find is to invite Jesus to come into our lives and help us control our mouth. To do that simply read a few more lines, understand your need and follow the directions and He will come in and help you.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)