

THREE LITTLE WORDS

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some three-word sentences that we have trouble saying.
2. The human tongue is a powerful instrument that can be responsible for both good and evil
 - a. It is written, "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing" Jas 3:10
 - b. Jesus once said, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).
3. How we use our tongue is of extreme importance in the sight of the Lord.
4. Thankfully, there are those moments when we feel like we say just what needs to be said.
 - a. On other occasions we may say things that are out of place. **Eccl. 3:7**
 - b. Still, there are those times when the appropriate words, though they are in our mind, never come out of our mouth. - apples of gold in pictures of silver
 - c. Some words come easier for us than others do. Some words seem to roll freely from our tongues, while it seems that we just cannot get ourselves to say others.
5. Consider a few three-word sentences that we sometimes have trouble saying.
 - a. There is no trouble in understanding their meanings.
 - b. Sometimes the difficulty lies in "getting the words out."
 - c. Each of these is a powerful message when it comes from a sincere heart and is used at the right moment.

Discussion

I. "I DON'T KNOW"

A. It is true that we are to be ready to give an answer when people ask questions

1. 1 Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
2. But it is also true that sometimes we just do not know the answer to a question that has been asked.

B. Sometimes we must say "I don't know"

1. In my private studies, as well as in my public classes or preacher training school classes, I have often honestly admitted, "I don't know" in response to a Bible question. Kiev Bible School - many good questions were asked.
2. Such an answer is more appropriate than trying to "bluff" our way through.
3. People are usually able to tell when we don't have the slightest idea what the correct answer is, so it is better to admit it up front, then when we have opportunity go to the Book and try to find what God's word says.
4. We must not allow pride or embarrassment at not knowing the right answer get in our way of teaching. Sometimes we should say "I don't know" then search and find the answer.

II. "I LOVE YOU"

A. Family members

1. How encouraging it is to hear parents tell their children that they love them.
 - a. Tit. 2:4 - older women teach the younger women to love their children
 - b. Hopefully one day the children will mature to the point of being able to express their sincere love in return.
2. Husbands and wives also ought to freely express their love for one another
 - a. Ephesians 5:25
 - b. Titus 2: 4
3. It is neither childish nor unmanly for adults to express their love for one another.

B. God felt no inhibition in expressing His love for us (John 3:16), and Jesus plainly told His apostles, "... I have loved you"

1. John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."
2. John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

C. These three little words should be uttered often

1. In the church - one to another
2. In the family

III. "I WAS WRONG"

- A. We do not have a problem making mistakes.
 - 1. It is just sometimes difficult to muster up the courage to say, "I was wrong."
 - 2. Jesus Christ is the only person of accountable age that lived a life free from mistakes (1 Peter 2:22). "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:"
 - 3. All the rest of us are in the same boat (Romans 3:23).
- B. Even when our mistakes may not be in the category of "transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), the words "I was wrong" are often needful to lay problems or conflicts to rest.
 - 1. God's children must not be afraid to admit their mistakes.
 - 2. Three little words we could say "I was wrong" could help

IV. "I DON'T AGREE"

- A. In our discussions with others about the Bible or how God wants us to live, there is certainly a time to listen and allow others to express their viewpoints.
 - 1. But there is also a time when we must step in and say, "I don't agree," then explain the Biblical basis of our disagreement.
 - 2. We must not sit by in silence as men and women spit out things that are blasphemous or that would cause any other listeners to be led astray.
- B. Examples
 - 1. Jesus expressed His disagreement with the Pharisees about what causes a person to be unclean (Mark 7:1-23).
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas voiced their strong disagreement when some claimed that only those who are circumcised can be saved (Acts 15:1,2).

V. "PLEASE FORGIVE ME"

- A. Jesus said, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him" (Luke 17:3).
1. The sad truth is that in some cases reconciliation between two Christians who are at odds with each other never comes about.
 2. One reason for this is that the party who has wronged his brother or sister is not willing to express his sorrow for his mistake and ask forgiveness (And, as we well know, in some instances more than one person involved in a problem needs to step up and say, "Please forgive me.").
 3. Brethren, if we have sinned against another person and our repentance is genuine, then we need to seek that person's forgiveness.
- B. It is not always easy to express in words, but it is necessary.

VI. "CAN I HELP"

- A. We are accustomed to hearing these three words from a clerk or salesperson in a store.
1. How accustomed are we to hearing Christians ask, "Can I help" or "How can I help" in the work of the kingdom?
 2. How many elderships are swamped with requests from members who are "chomping" at the bit" to help in the work of the church and come forward, saying, "Can I help?"
 3. Are we guilty of creating traffic problems because we have so many members walking the streets to knock doors or distribute literature?

4. Do we have to turn down great numbers of saints because they signed up too late to help with Vacation Bible School? Not usually!
 5. We had good co-operation with our VBS this year and people willing to help.
- B. Brothers and sisters, if the elders initiate a program of work for the local church, then let's all get behind it and come forward to ask, "How can I help?"
1. As the song says, "There is much to do, there's work on every hand," so let's all pitch in and use our talents to do what we can to help strengthen the church and glorify the Lord!
 2. Can I help ?

Conclusion

1. "I don't know," "I love you," "I was wrong," "I don't agree," "Please forgive me," "Can I help" - these are just a few of the many short, powerful sentences that ought to be a part of our vocabulary when the situation merits their usage.
2. May God help us to have the strength to overcome whatever might hinder us from using such expressions at the appropriate time.
3. Our tongue is very powerful and can do so much good if we will use it properly
4. Prov. 25:11 **"A word fitly spoken [is like] apples of gold in pictures of silver."**
5. "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth." Prov. 10:20