

SPEECH SURVEY ANSWERS

9. What is the primary purpose of biblical speech for Christians?

Importantly, per the Bible, our speech is not for ourselves, to complain, talk about others, share our burdens or tell people who we are, but to focus on other people and their needs as characterized by 'agape' (Greek, giving, selfless) love (1 John 5: 2-3; John 15:17). In other words, we should consider first the needs of the other person before ourselves unless we are in such distress that we need a fellow Christian's or the church's intervention.

11. When I speak, I spend approximately ___% of my time (responses should total 100%):

The Bible suggests listening first (James 1:19). This is excellent advice.

12. Which are examples of positive speech in the New Testament epistles?

Commendation - Colossians 1:1-7
Thankfulness - Colossians 1:1-7
Praise - 1 Timothy 1:17-20
Prayer - Ephesians 1:15-18
Encouraging one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
Teaching scripture - 1 Timothy 4:6
Full of grace/kindness - Ephesians 4:29

13. Which are examples of positive attitudes for speech in the New Testament epistles?

Desire to meet others' needs - Ephesians 4:29
Bear others' burdens - Galatians 6:2
Slow to speak, quick to listen - James 1:19
Express gratitude for people even when they are not present - Colossians 1:7-8
Speak plainly - 2 Corinthians 3:12
Healthy/sound - Titus 2:8
Gentle/patient/approachable - Galatians 5:22
Seasoned with salt to attract others to the gospel - Colossians 4:6

14. What are examples of negative speech in the New Testament epistles?

Gossip – Titus 1:10
Arrogance – 1 Timothy 6:17
Perverse - 1 Timothy 6:5
Blasphemy - Colossians 3:8
Lying - Ephesians 4:25
Argumentative - 2 Timothy 2:23
Speaking only for personal gain - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6
Teaching others incorrect truths about God and Christ - 2 Peter 2:1
Denying basic principles of the faith - 1 John 2:19-27

15. How should I speak to the needs of others as the Bible commands in Ephesians 4:29?

Below are concepts that lead towards biblical speech. These are methods Paul used in addressing the people in his ministry but I tossed in a few that my dear wife, Jeanette and I also use:

Take a few minutes and consider what would best help or encourage the other person - 1 Timothy 4:16
Ask questions of the other person to learn about their needs

Visit the other person's social media accounts to learn about their needs

Consider specific commendation and gratitude - Colossians 1:1-8

Discuss problems of other people 'only' when action has been or should be taken to assist them - Paul's whole writing style

Speak first to solutions to apparent problems without naming names - Paul's whole writing style

Pray for the person - Ephesians 1:15f; 3:14; Colossians 1:9-14

Encourage or teach others scripture according to their need - 2 Thessalonians 2:11

Biblical speech – With biblical input and thinking, we will find it much easier to speak in a fashion that loves people and pleases God. However, biblical speech patterns do not come naturally. How do we do it?

Think before you speak - Before you meet with somebody consider specific ways that you can express gratitude, as well as compliment and encourage them. This may not seem natural to some. However, if we don't consider encouragement ahead of time then generally it will not happen. Be specific in your commendation and thankfulness; the more precise the better.

Spiritually, plan ways to encourage or push your colleague on in Christ whether by discussing or encouraging through a Bible verse, teaching other people (formally or informally) or sharing the gospel.

We are all busy, if we don't think about positive biblical speech ahead of time, we generally won't do it. Think about it!

Ask questions – If you do not know how to encourage someone then ask them questions or search their on-line presence!

People love to talk about themselves. The more questions you ask, and the deeper the follow-up questions, presented in an interested and genuine way, the more you will learn about your colleague, spouse, boss, friend or new acquaintance. They will think you are wonderful and the extra knowledge will help you better pray for them as well as help and encourage them.

Biblical speech is key to a functioning, effective loving Body of Christ. That is not to say that we talk about godly things, encouraging others and expressing gratitude all the time. However, we should endeavor to keep the environment in which we meet people controllable and generate enough profitable speech that the overall atmosphere is productive and biblically based, even if you're discussing football and recipes at the same time.