

## Let Your Speech Always be..

Col 4:6

By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show how important it is that we treat one another with love and kindness.

Intro:

1. It's not uncommon for many of us to tease one another and joke with one another, but what if we cross a line or hurt feelings? Do we know when to draw the line.
2. What is playful teasing and what goes too far.
3. As Christians we are told to love one another. (**Jn 13:34**)
  - a. Someone once said "*Conversation between Adam and Eve must have been difficult at times because they had nobody to talk about*"
4. If we are not careful we can say and do things that offend another, as Christians especially, we should behave in such ways that we do not offend another. (body language, history of past problems, etc) (**Rom 14:21b** –“is made weak”)

I. As Christians we know to be kind to others, this includes our own brothers and sisters in Christ. (**Eph 4:32**)

A. We sometimes forget those who we should love most are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

1. Thus, we should treat one another with love and respect, and sincerely care about the well-being of each other. (**Heb 10:25**)
2. We are told to be tender-hearted and forgiving. It's not uncommon after many years around one another we allow ourselves to grow cold towards some, this should not be the case. Christ tolerated those around Him constantly, and He forgave many, so we should do also. (**Romans 12:10**)

B. Our love for the brethren should be genuine. (**Rom 12:9a**)

1. Our love should be true and sincere.. (**Prov 10:12**)
2. It's difficult at times to love ALL our brethren but we should pray for strength and try, even towards those who have offended us in times past.

II. Treat others well despite how they may treat you. (**1 Thess 5:15**).

A. As Christians we do not repay evil.

1. We should always be kind and loving even towards those who may not truly deserve such.
2. As Christians our example of doing what is right is what pleases God.

B. We must not be angry but gentle. (**Prov 15:18**)

1. We should not be those who get angry, but be those who remain calm and polite and allow others to be the ones who look foolish in their anger and attitude.
2. We are to be gentle, that doesn't mean what don't defend ourselves, but we do so peacefully.

III. Being mindful of others feelings and their “unseen and unknown” situation(s).

A. **Col 4:6a** “Let your speech always be with grace”

1. In context the verse is referring to our attitude towards those who disagree with the word of God and those who we are trying to teach. However, can’t this be applied to those within the church as well? That we show grace towards them; grace being kindness whether or not they merit it.

2. When we are kind and respectful in our speech others notice such. (**Prov 15:17**)

A. Our speech should be edifying and not speech that offends one of our own brethren. (**Pay attention to your fellow brethren’s – body language, facial expressions, etc**)

B. What the Bible has to say about words- (**Job 34:3**)

1. **Psalm 19:14**- are words (and our meditations [our thoughts]) must be acceptable in the sight of God

2. **Proverbs 16:24** – kind and pleasant words; build, encourage and uplift. They create a strong morale.

3. **Proverbs 25:11** – we must be careful when we speak. To know what is appropriate for a situation and what is not.

Conc:

1. We have seen how we are to speak to one another.

2. We should always be mindful of how we treat those who are outside the church, but shouldn’t we be mindful also of how we treat our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? (**Jn 15:17**)

3. Let us not forget to love and be kind to those who are our fellow brethren (**1 Jn 3:16**)

4. Invitation