

The New Testament Church
Mentoring More in 2024 – Session 7 – Guarding Our Tongue
February 11, 2024
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- I Learning begins in the heart of the Individual – and this is the heart of mentoring (discipleship)
- A. Teaching and Learning takes place in the home and church – coaching and admonishing
 - B. How we receive Truth – Romans 12:2
 - 1. Maintain a humble heart - observation
 - 2. Receive the engrafted Word – meditation (rolling it around in our minds)
 - 3. Practice its truths (Romans 6) – obedience (putting it into action)
 - C. So far this year...
 - 1. What it means to mentor – encouragement, teaching, coming alongside
 - 2. We are owned by God – accountability, spirit-soul-body given to Him every day
 - 3. We are to disciple – being a disciple means wherever we are, we make disciples
 - 4. Mentor by example a heart for the lost and simply sharing the gospel
 - 5. Come alongside one another and encourage each other to be grateful for what God has done
 - 6. Let's help one another be grateful for what God has done, and not focus on disappointments
- II The Tongue – *restraining our tongue (measuring words) helps us edify one another* (Psalm 39:1-3)
- A. Ephesians 4:3 – *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
 - 1. Guarding the unity of the Spirit requires us to *restrain our tongue* (Eph. 4:29-32)
 - a. James 3:2-7 describes the struggle each of us in this area... measure of our maturity
 - b. James 1:26 reinforces that the restraint on our tongues is true Christianity!
 - c. Romans 2:1 declares that when we slander, gossip or put down someone else, it is really an exposure of ourselves, for that which we detest about others we are doing ourselves!
 - d. Proverbs 10:19 declares that the more we speak, the more we take the risk of sinning
 - 2. The characteristics of “talebearing” or gossip is articulated in the Bible
 - a. Pr. 10:18 – *when we gossip, we often are trying to “hide” hatred with lies*
 - b. Pr. 11:9 – *gossip destroys our neighbor, can spread a false reputation*
 - c. Pr. 11:13 – *a gossip betrays a confidence, but faithfulness conceals a matter*
 - d. Pr. 16:28 – *gossip slanders, divides and can break off friendships (trust)*
 - e. Pr. 20:19 – *avoid people who talk too much and have no borders or control!*
 - f. Pr. 26:20 – *without gossip, quarrels, divisiveness and contention die out!*
 - 3. *Today, we can encourage and admonish one another to protect one another and guard unity*
 - B. Ephesians 4:4-6 – *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*
 - 1. The Church is designed to model unity, avoiding uniformity (forced unity) and discord
 - 2. Unity is maintained when something greater is the true goal – one Spirit, one hope...
 - 3. Eph. 4:16 - Truth handled in immaturity is destructive, truth and love must be in balance
 - 4. Pr. 17:9 – Covering a transgression is seeking love, repeating it separates and divides
 - 5. Pr. 18:8 – Accusations in the wrong tone hurt deeply, and cause great harm
 - 6. Pr. 18:21 – Death and life are in the power of the tongue, you love what you say
 - 7. Ponder the following reasons why we must learn to *speak the truth in love*
 - a. We are instructed to go directly to an individual, and then, if needed, take a witness
 - b. Gal. 6:1 – We need to get our *attitude and tone* checked as well as our words
 - c. *We can say the right thing the wrong tone, or the wrong thing with the right tone*
 - d. *We shared the right thing to the wrong person at the wrong time*