

UNWHOLESOME WORDS

In our [last study](#) we discussed Grieving the Spirit by stealing what belonged to others (Eph.4:28). We learned that stealing taught the doctrine of private ownership rather than communal equality.

We learned one of the great blessings of employment was one's charity offered to meet the logistical needs of others by God's surplus grace.

1. In this lesson, we will learn that Unwholesome Words from the mouth of a believer Grieves the Holy Spirit.

We will begin by dividing out lesson text into two parts.

- **Bad:** “Let no **unwholesome** (me sapos) [bad, corrupt, rotten/ unfit for use] [the root word is sepo meaning to rot] **word** (logos) **proceed** (ekporeuomai/ p.m.impv.3ps) [command] **from your mouth.** (a sin of the tongue)
- **Blessing:** “**but** (alla) [in contrast] **only such a word as is good for edification** (oikedome) [to build-up] **according to the need of the moment, that it may give (didomi/ a.a.subj) **grace to those who hear** (tois akouo/ p.a.ptc.dplm).” (Eph.4:29)**

2. As a sin of the tongue, unwholesome words are the expression of the thoughts of the mind and heart.

They are first exposed by inter-dialogue. Things we tell ourselves before we tell others. It is our dress rehearsal.

Paul warns the believer to **take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.** (2 Cor.10:5; 10:3-8)

(Prov.12:18) “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

(Prov.18:6-7) A fool's lips brings strife, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.”

Joseph's brother would be a classic example of this lesson (Gen.37:11, 18-20, 28; 45:7-8; 50:20).

3. What I am about to teach you is so important to your Christian way of life.

When you engage your inter-dialogue and begin to focus on the ME of you, rather than the Christ IN you (Phil.1:21-23), you are headed towards Unwholesome Words.

It is at this point that you must walk by means of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20) rather than walking by means of flesh (Old Sin Nature).

You do not want to stay under the influence of your Old Sin Nature, your flesh!

(Rom.6:12) “Therefore do not let the sin (OSN) reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts.”

(James 1:14-15) “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **Then when lust has conceived**, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death”.

(Rom.13:14) “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and **make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust.**”

4. All categories of personal sins are covered by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

(1 John 1:7) “But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sins.**”

(1 John 2:1-2) “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our sins only, but also for those of the whole world.**”

(2 Cor.7:1) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(Heb.9:13-15) For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

(1 John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous **to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

HOME STUDY: (8 Sins of Tongue that fall under Unwholesome words)

Lying lips	(Prov.12:22)	Flattering lips	(Prov.26:28)
Back-biting tongue	(Prov.25:23)	Critical or judgmental tongue	(Rom.14:10)
Quarreling tongue	(Prov.17:14; James 4:1-2)	False hood tongue	(Eph.4:5)
Gossiping tongue	(1 Tim.5:13)	Slandering tongue	(Eph.4:31-32)

(Prov.10:19)

“When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

(Prov.21:23)

“He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from trouble.”