

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- November 17, 2016

"The Power of Words"

Here's the old saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." Really? Let's not fool ourselves. Words are toxic. Words are potent. Our words can transfer ideas. How many adults are there who have been told in their childhood that "you are stupid and wouldn't amount to anything" and those words have affected them throughout their lives?

Words can hurt us. Recently the singer, Mariah Carey, said in an interview that one negative word or criticism will negate a thousand praises given to her.

Words can wound and steal life. Gossip, slander, false testimony use words to malign the reputation of others. Jesus Himself said that "dogs" referring to "vicious gossipers" who intentionally destroy the character of others will have no part in heaven. Jesus said it – I did not!

Words of condemnation and sarcasm create pain as they shame and belittle others. On the other hand, there are Healing Words (Proverbs 12:18). Words of praise, encouragement and comfort have a healing power. Marriages become better when spouses verbalize the best in each other. A gentle word turns away wrath and stops the cycle of evil (Proverb 15:1).

The question is: How Can We Transform Our Toxic Words into Healing Words? It begins by identifying the source of our words: "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). It is Jesus alone who can effect transformation of the heart. Hearts yielded to Jesus will inevitably yield the fruits of love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, patience and healing words.

Why not make somebody's life beautiful today by saying a kind word or by doing a good deed?

Remember that this Sunday (November 20th) is Consecration Sunday when we will take up the pledges for 2017. Also, it is our church's annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Have a nice week. See you in church Sunday.
Pastor Sewdin