

The Christian life isn't only about avoiding sinful actions it's also about guarding our hearts, minds, and **words**. The Bible clearly teaches that **our speech has the power to shape or destroy our character**.

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"

1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV

The Greek word translated as *company* here is *homiliai*, which also means "communications" or "conversations." Paul is warning the Corinthians not only about associating with ungodly people but about being influenced by their way of thinking and speaking.

Sin Often Begins with Words

Many sins don't start with actions they start with *talk*. Whether it's gossip, flirting, plotting evil, or sowing discord, sin often takes root in our conversations. This is why Scripture urges us to **guard our speech**:

"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!"

Psalm 141:3, ESV

Planning to sin usually begins with a dialogue internal or external. Murderers plot through speech (Proverbs 1:10-16), adulterers seduce with flattering lips (Proverbs 7:21), and gossips destroy relationships one word at a time (Proverbs 16:28).

Joseph: A Model of Integrity in Speech

One powerful example is Joseph in Genesis 39. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, Joseph didn't just resist her physically **he also avoided conversation with her altogether:**

"And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her."

Genesis 39:10, NIV

This is significant. Joseph recognized that *entertaining the conversation* was the first step toward temptation. He didn't rely on his own strength or flirt with the boundary. Instead, he **removed himself from the environment** that would make sin more likely.

Guarding Our Speech Guards Our Holiness

Many Christians today claim they are spiritually strong and “would never fall into sin,” yet they freely engage in casual, flirtatious, or foolish conversations especially with the opposite sex. They joke excessively, chat endlessly online, and justify “harmless talk.”

But Jesus warned us:

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.”

Matthew 12:36, NIV

Paul also commands believers to avoid crude talk, gossip, and foolish joking:

"Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."

Ephesians 5:4, ESV

When you engage in idle or impure conversation, especially with people who don't know God, you're giving the enemy a foothold (Ephesians 4:27). Conversations are spiritual doors you must choose carefully which ones you open.

Words Shape Character

We become what we repeatedly say and hear. That's why Scripture warns that evil speech isn't harmless it actually **corrupts** what is good in us:

"Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"

1 Corinthians 15:33, NIV

This is not merely a social principle it is a **spiritual law**.

As James writes:

"The tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."

James 3:6, ESV

Application: Guard Your Mouth, Guard Your Life

If you care about your spiritual integrity, you must take control of your speech. Cut off conversations that do not glorify God especially those that open the door to temptation. Be especially cautious in your interactions with the opposite sex, and those who do not share your faith.

"Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble."

Proverbs 21:23, ESV

Maranatha The Lord is Coming

In these last days, the enemy is cunning he often doesn't attack with obvious sin, but with casual compromise. Don't be deceived into thinking conversations don't matter. **They shape your heart, and your heart shapes your destiny.**

Guard your speech as if your spiritual life depends on it **because it does.**

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Proverbs 4:23, NIV

Maranatha The Lord is coming soon. May He find us faithful in speech, thought, and action.

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