



byDesign: Words

Last message in our summer series.

Words are...

1. An expression of ourselves to others
 2. An extension of our character to others
 3. An invitation (or rejection) of relationship with others
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- **An expression of ourselves to others**
 - What I like (football / sooners / fall afternoons) – [Pic 1](#)
 - What I dislike (peanut butter – [Pic 2](#) / stomach aches – [Pic 3](#) / sight of surgery on TV – [Pic 4](#))
 - THESE ARE NOT EMPTY WORDS. They communicate part of who I am.
 - **An extension of character to others**
 - I will arrive at 5pm... - [Pic 5](#)
 - I show up at 4:45pm to make sure I am on time.
 - I show up at 5:27pm and say, “I am so sorry I am late.”
 - I show up at 5:27pm and say, “Thanks for waiting. I was so hungry I stopped for a burger. I figured that was more important.”
 - **An invitation (or rejection) of relationship with others**
 - Invitations... - [Pic 6](#)
 - Would you like to go grab coffee or lunch sometime?
 - Call me or text me to let me know how things go.
 - I’ve been praying for you, how are you feeling today?
 - Rejections... - [Pic 7](#)
 - I’ve got a lot going on and I’m too busy/overwhelmed/anxious right now.
 - Don’t call us, we will call you.
 - I never want to see or hear from you again.

Words are...

1. An expression of ourselves to others
2. An extension of our character to others
3. An invitation (or rejection) of relationship with others

This is by design! God is the author of words, and He has chosen to relate to us through His Words.

God's Words are...

1. An expression of Himself to us
2. An extension of His character to us
3. An invitation to share relationship with us

Where do we see this in the Bible? It is all throughout the entire story of Scripture...

- Creation (first chapter)
 - And God said...
 - And it was so...
 - Through Words, we learn about God. He has the power and ability to create and the authority over all His creation.
- The Fall (or corruption) of Man
 - Take full advantage of all I have created, rule over it, and enjoy it! Just don't eat from this one tree (invitation to relationship). If you do, you will surely die (promise).
 - Adam and Eve reject God's Word and thereby reject God Himself.
 - Loss of relationship through rejecting God's Word.
 - God makes good on His promise (extension of His character), and death entered the world with sin (Jerry message on death).
- Cain and Abel
 - God warned Cain that sin's desire was for him, but that he must rule over it (invitation to relationship).
 - Cain rejected God's Word and killed his brother out of jealousy.
 - God punished Cain, but he also showed mercy (expression of Himself and extension of His character). Cain suffered loss in his relationship with God and others because he rejected God's Words.

This pattern repeats over and over and over in the Scriptures. (Expression, extend, invite.) These examples show what happens when God speaks, and the consequences of rejecting His Words.

One more example... what happens in the absence of God's Words?

After Cain killed Abel, he and Eve had a son named Seth. According to Genesis, between the birth of Seth and the birth of Noah, there are 1056 years. According to Genesis 5, Noah was 500 before he had his three sons.

What's the point?

Over 1500 years passed between the story of Cain and Abel and the story of Noah and the ark. During that 1500 years, there is only one example in the Bible of someone who walked with God. That is the example of Enoch...

Genesis 5:21-24

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

How did Enoch walk with God?

- Did God talk with Enoch personally?
- Did He honor God through the stories of Adam, who was still living during his lifetime?

We cannot be sure. However, we know that Enoch experienced God's grace and did not reject Him but walked with Him. As a result, Enoch is honored in the Scriptures for walking with God.

As for the rest of mankind? There were no recorded revelations from God's Word during this period of history. Mankind rejected and neglected the Words of God that were available to them. In the absence of God's Word, people fell into terrible wickedness...

Genesis 5:5-8

5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Look at what happened to people in the absence of the Words of God. His Words give life, and without them we as people are hopelessly lost. Through Noah, God broke the silence, and His Words changed the course of human history...

1. Noah found grace in God's eyes.
2. God spoke to Noah about His coming judgement, and He offered Noah a way of escape.
3. Noah did not reject the Words of God, but embraced them.
4. Noah became God's messenger, preaching about His coming judgement.
5. Noah became God's instrument, and God provided salvation to mankind through Noah's faith.
6. God established His covenant with Noah, and God has been faithful to that covenant throughout all of human history.

God accomplished all this through His Words. His Words are an expression of Himself, an extension of His character, and an invitation to us to be in relationship with Him.

Time would fail me to talk about all the ways God has used His Words to change the course of human history over and over again...

- God established his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- God gave His Word to Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt and to give His precious law to us.
- God spoke to judges, prophets, and kings to lead the nations and to call people back to Him.
- Over and over again, all throughout the pages of Scripture, we see the power of God's Words.
- Indeed, the power and authority of Scripture is rooted in the very fact that Scripture is the Word of God, breathed out and inspired by Him!

God has made Himself known through Words. In fact, **None of us would know God apart from His Word.** We know God because He has expressed Himself through His Words, extended Himself to us through His Words, and invited us into relationship with Him through His Words.

This is the power of the Word of God. This is the impact His Word has on all of humanity. God's Words carry great power and authority. They are backed by His character, and they call us into relationship with Him. What a revelation and blessing we have through the Word of God! And yet, we haven't even reached the climax of the story yet. **The Word of God reaches its climax in the person of Jesus Christ!**

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Do you understand what this means? Jesus Christ IS the WORD OF GOD made flesh! Jesus did not come into existence when He was born in Bethlehem a couple thousand years ago. Jesus has ALWAYS existed with God! Jesus is seen throughout ALL of the Old Testament, because Jesus IS the very WORD of God! The Word that God spoke in the beginning to create the heavens and the earth? That Word is Christ...

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions

or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

There is a song that I love that has my favorite lyrics that I have heard so far in 2018. We have sang this song here on Sunday mornings. The verse of the song that I love goes like this...

You were the Word in the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

Do you understand what you are singing when you sing these words? You are declaring the literal presence of Jesus Christ in the Words of God from the beginning of creation until He was fully revealed in the flesh. You are saying that you believe that Jesus has existed with God and was present in God's Words from all of eternity past until the present. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us!

This is too wonderful for man to have come up with. God's revelation of Jesus was progressive. He was present in Genesis 1:1, and He was present all throughout the history of God's relationship with men. He is the culmination of all God's acts of salvation and grace and mercy. He will be the culmination of all of human history when He returns for His Church one day. In Jesus Christ, the Word of God is fully revealed, and the fullness of God is pleased to dwell.

Do you get the picture? God's Words have power and authority because they are and expression of Himself, and extension of Himself, and an invitation into relationship with Him. Jesus is the fullest expression of God's Word. When God speaks, He extends His grace. When His Words are rejected or neglected, we miss out on His grace. When we receive His Words, they come with the power to save.

Share the GOSPEL.

How should this truth from God's Word impact our lives today?

1. Your words have power. How has it been going with your words?
2. God's Words have power. Have you been in the Word, or rejecting/neglecting the Word?

3. Jesus is the Word. Have you been making disciples of Jesus through the Word?

Alter Call

Prayer Meeting:

- Eloise (sick, heart stress test this week)
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