



THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES: WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Jesus did not care as much about we ate or drank as he cared about our talk. Simply put, words matter. The old childish "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me," simply doesn't make the cut to adult wisdom. Words at times are the most hurtful or helpful things we have. If they are so powerful, let's use them for good.

First Step - Read Scripture

Proverbs 12:25

Isaiah 63:7-8

Galatians 5:22-26

- Step In -

Why are we drawn to words of "honey" and repelled by words of "vinegar?"

- Does this make us naïve and vulnerable to manipulation?

What do you think of the strategy of Betty Jo's and Bill's building a list of verbal appreciation of each other? (pages 48-49 of the book)

- Step Up -

The verse cited from Galatians, speaks of Fruits of the Spirit, and kindness is one of them.

- Discuss the Fruits and what they represent. (Refer to the footnotes in your study Bible)

Review the verse from Isaiah.

- How are kind words/kindness and the other fruits important in a community of faith?
- How would the importance of these fruits be different outside the community of faith?

- Step Out -

Gal. 5:26 cautions our behavior. What does it say and why were negative words included in the same set of verses as the Fruits of the Spirit?

Mother Teresa is quoted, "*Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.*" What does she mean? Include this thought in your closing prayer and in your daily prayer this week. Experiment by speaking kind words to everyone .

Close this week by reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Sermon Notes