



A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

- 7054 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, CA 91306
- Mail To: P.O. Box 2711, Winnetka, CA 91396
- 818-795-5566 (minister's cell phone)
- W. Bruce Evans, Minister:

July 6, 2025

www.winnetkachurchof christ.com

THE BULWARK

QUICK, HIT UNSEND!

"Argh! How do I unsend it?" Horrors, upon horrors. It is probably safe to assume we at one time or another have sent an email and then realized it went to the wrong person, or had something that could be misconstrued by the recipient. Smart phones, computers and electronic devices can do so much, so why can't they keep us safe from ourselves? Somebody, anybody please install a button that can retrieve an offending missive. Sadly, no such feature exists (at least to my knowledge). Stands to reason to give heed to what James sets forth, "...let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger" (1:19)

We live in an age where communication overwhelms us at every turn; whether it be face to face or electronic. Considering this to be the case it would now, more than ever behoove us to embrace the mind set Peter lays out. "To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kind-hearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult with insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. Let him who means to love life and see good days refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile." (1Peter 3:8-10)

Emotions get out of whack, and before too long a diatribe is written, not sparring any words, then posted on Facebook or X. For all to see. Over the years there have been members of the body of Christ who have made posts that are questionable to say the least. But a more honest assessment would be reckless and such casts a pallor over the individual as well as the body of Christ. Remember what Jesus brought forth as seen in Matthew 12:34, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." He goes on to say,

"And I say to you, that every careless word *that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.*" (Matthew 12:36-37)



Reading various posts made by some members of the church over the years has caused me (and I am sure others) to be mortified. However, when confronted about it, rarely, if ever is there a retraction posted. It's as if they never heard the teaching from Ephesians 4:29, "*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such*

a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment that it may give grace to those who hear." Couple that with what Paul wrote in Colossians 4:6, "*Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how to respond to each person.*"

"Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips." (Psalms 141:3) If only all would emulate the attitude expressed by David in the passage above. What a tremendous thought which to carry into every situation where we are tempted to lash out with words. Bite back words that bite and do harm to others.

Solomon, in giving direction to his son, writes freely about the power the tongue carries (see Proverbs 18:21), and issues many cautionaries. "*He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles.*" (Proverbs 21:23) "*The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.*" (Proverbs 15:28) Let us strive to have our words be of the sort like discussed in Proverbs 16:24. "*Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*" No need to hit, "unsend", (wbe)