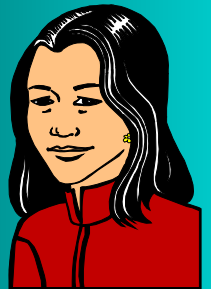


Language: Its Importance

How does language
influence our lives?

for Lansdale Presbyterian Church
Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary



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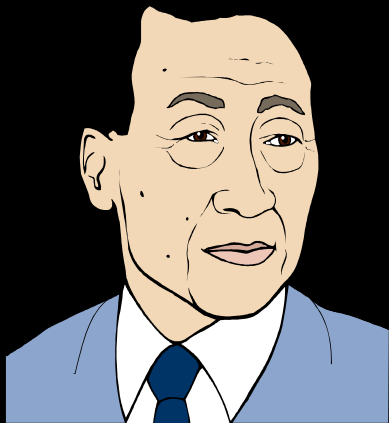
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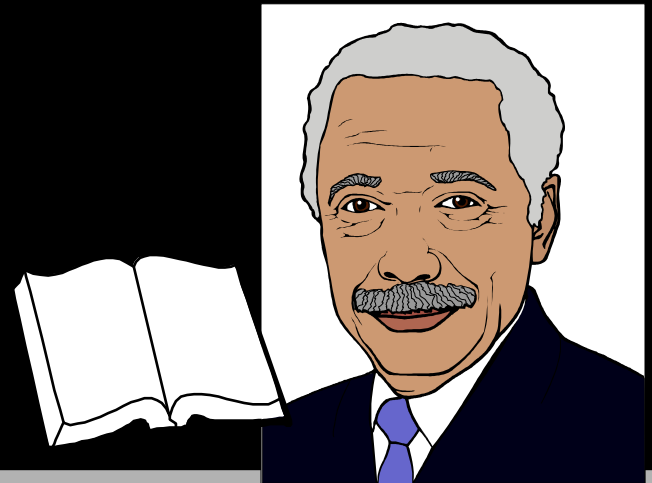
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The Challenge

So why should I care about language?



The Bible itself has much to say about it.



A. Involvement with Language

Where Is Language Used?

- ◆ Work ✓
- ◆ Family ✓
- ◆ Entertainment ✓
- ◆ Church ✓

God Creating

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

God Instructing Mankind

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28)

Temptation

But the serpent said to the woman,
"You will not surely die." (Gen.
3:4)

Promise

The Lord God said to the serpent,

...

I will put enmity between you [the serpent]
and the woman,
and between your offspring and
her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel. (Gen.
3:14-15)

Jesus' Words

Everyone then who hears these words of mine [Jesus' words] and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. (Matt. 7:24-25)

Jesus' Words (2)

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. (Matt. 7:26-27)

Resurrection

Lazarus, come out! (John 11:43)

... for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29)

Last Judgment

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Matt. 12:36-37)

The Gospel Message

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel Message (2)

But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
(Rom. 10:14-17)

Jesus Christ as the Word

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

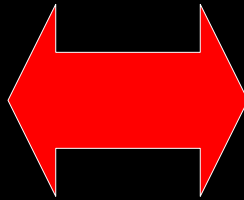
The Role of Truth

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17:17-19)

Speaking the Truth

The lips of the righteous know
what is acceptable,
but the mouth of the wicked,
what is perverse. (Prov. 10:32)

truth

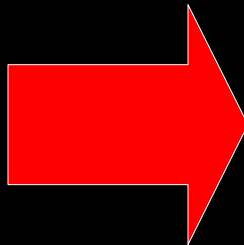


error

Effects of Words

There is one whose rash words are
like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise
brings healing. (Prov. 12:18)

truth

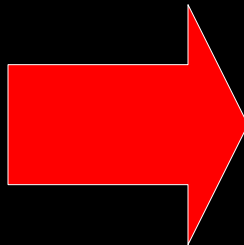


healing

Passing on Truth

A wise son hears his father's instruction,
but a scoffer does not listen
to rebuke. (Prov. 13:1)

truth

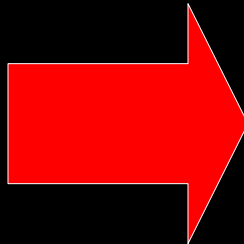


others

Care with Speech

Whoever guards his mouth preserves
his life;
he who opens wide his lips comes
to ruin. (Prov. 13:3)

truth

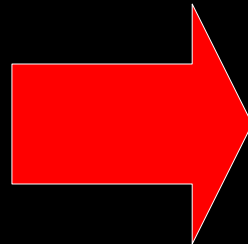


life

Listening

By insolence comes nothing but strife,
but with those who take advice
is wisdom. (Prov. 13:10)

truth



wisdom

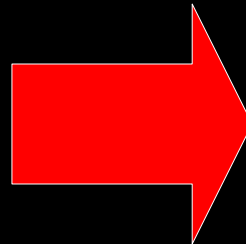
Listening (2)

Poverty and disgrace come to him
who ignores instruction,
but whoever heeds reproof is
honored. (Prov. 13:18)

Reconciliation

A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Prov.
15:1)

truth



peace