

Words That Give Grace, not Grief

Eph. 4:29,30

Don't speak rotten words. 29a (negative)

- *Unwholesome* (corrupt / rotten / putrid) is descriptive of bad trees, fruit, and fish in Matt. 7:17,18, 12:48. Compare to v.25, 5:4.
- The effect of such words is opposite of good words that build up. See Prov. 12:18, 15:1,4, 16:28, 26:28 and contrast with v. 28.
Ever been hurt by rotten words?

Do you tend to use them?

Only speak good words that build others up. 29b (positive)

- *Good for building* suggests believers, see *building* in 4:12,16
- Impact of good words is in Prov. 10:11,20,21, 12:18, 15:4.
- One who has need—timing is big, Prov. 12:25, 25:11, Col. 4:6.
What are some words that can build others up?

Words can give grace to others or grief to God. 29c,30 (rationale)

- Note the verbal parallels of v. 29 to v. 28.
- Earlier God's grace is toward us (1:6,7, 2:5,7,8), but here we are called to give grace to other believers through our words.
- Grieving the Holy Spirit shows He is a person (can also be lied to, Acts 5:3). Note appeal back to 1:13,14.
- Our words are more powerful and impactful than we often realize, Prov. 18:21, Matt. 12:36,37.

