

The Words We Speak

Words play a very important role in our human relationships. They can inspire, motivate and encourage others, or they can tear down, depress or discourage those to whom they are addressed. There is no doubt, however, that positive speech can have marvelous effects on the hearers. Consider, for example, the words of the *Star Spangled Banner* or the *Declaration of Independence*, how they stir the heart and challenge us to reach beyond the mundane and the ordinary.

Without question, appropriate behavior gives credibility to the spoken, or written, word. If we are to talk the talk, then we should walk the walk. Nevertheless, language that challenges us enriches our lives. Examine the truth of these quotations (attributed to some individuals you will recognize and some you may not):

- “Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited, until you try to get into their church pew.” – George Goldtrap
- “The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close.” – Mark Twain
- “Many spend the first six days of the week sowing wild oats, and then go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure.” – Fred Allen
- “A lot of church members who are singing *Standing on the Promises* are just sitting on the premises.” – Sister Monique Rysavy
- “We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers.” – Donna Maddux
- “Young man, the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.
- “To err is human; to blame it on somebody else is even more human.” -- John Nadeau
- “Some minds are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.” – Rev. Denny Brake

How about your speech today as you work in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home? Do the sentences you utter bless those you meet?

I promise to try a little harder to achieve that objective.

--Beecher Hunter