

War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles by Paul David Tripp, P & R Publishing Phillipsburg, NJ, 2001 (90 Quotes selected by DJ Nichols, grandson)

1. God's Plan for Our Words

"God has a wonderful plan for our words that is far better than any plan we could come up with on our own." (p.5)

2. Sin Has Altered Our Agenda

"Sin has radically altered our agenda for our words, resulting in much hurt, confusion, and chaos." (p.5)

3. In Christ There Is Grace

"In Christ Jesus we find the grace that provides all we need to speak as God intended us to speak." (p.5)

4. Use the Word of God

"The Bible plainly and simply teaches us how to get from where God wants us to be." (p.5)

5. Sin Distorts Our Words

"...our sin...directs and distorts our words so that they are more about the desires of self than love of another." (p.6)

6. Our Words Have Significance

"When we speak, it must be with the realization that God has given our words significance." (p.7)

7. First Words Were from God

"...the first words that human ears ever heard were not the words of another human being, but the words of God!" (p.8)

8. God Speaks

"God is not just a God who *does*, he is a God who *speaks*--powerfully, elaborately, consistently, comprehensively, and clearly to his people." (p.9)

9. We Have a Witness

"He does not leave his people without a witness." (p.9)

10. Adam & Eve's Hope Was That God Would Speak to Them

"The only hope for Adam and Eve was that God would speak to them, giving them identity and purpose, and making sense out of the world in which they had been placed." (p.12)

11. Words Reveal

"Words reveal, define, explain, and shape." (p.12)

12. Too Many Words and Too Few

"We want to be alone when we have heard too many words and we feel alone when it has been a while since anyone has spoken to us." (p.13)

13. We Want to Know

"We talk because we want to know..." (p.15)

14. Words Belong to God

"Words belong to God, but he has lent them to us so that we might know him and be used by him." (p.15)

15. Use God's Standard

"Every word we speak must be up to God's standard and according to his design." (p.15)

16. Godly Communication Is Truth

"Good, godly communication is always dependent on truth." (p.23)

17. Lies Destroy Trust

"Lies not only distort facts, but they destroy the trust necessary for people to talk with one another." (p.23)

18. Problems Come When We Deceive, Distort, and Manipulate

"Most of our communication problems come because we deceive, distort, and manipulate with our words." (p.23)

19. We Change the Facts

"We recast events, often to the point of convincing ourselves that our perspective is true." (p.23)

20. We Fail to Seek Solutions

"In times of difficulty, we often are more ready to assess blame than to seek solutions." (p.24)

21. We Make Accusations against God

"Just like Adam, when we blame people and situations for our problems, below the surface we are also making accusations against God." (p.24)

22. Challenging God's Authorities

"...we live in a world where lies manipulate, angry words wound, falsehood destroys, slander harms, condemnation tears down, and disrespectful words challenge the authorities God has set in place." (p.25)

23. Words Build Up or Tear Down

"Our words build and give life or they tear down and destroy." (p.26)

24. We Descend to Satan's Levels

"We often have descended to the standard of the Father of Lies, the one who deceives, divides, and destroys--Satan himself." (p.29)

25. God Restores

"...Christ not only forgives, he delivers. He not only delivers, he restores. He not only restores, he reconciles." (p.32)

26. God Gives You Everything You Need

"The Lord will never put you in a situation without giving you everything you need to do what he has called you to do." (p.43)

27. God Gives Us the Holy Spirit to Do His Will

"The Holy Spirit was given so that we can do the will of God even though we are sinners in a fallen world; so that his life and strength would overwhelm all of the effects of our own sin and the effects of our own sin and the sin of others against us; so that we can actually do the will of God!" (p.46)

28. God's Higher Agenda

"Christ calls us to an agenda higher than our own pleasure." (p.48)

29. God's Word Gives Us Hope

"In the Word we find hope when all seems hopeless, riches when we feel poor, power when we see our weakness, and rule when everything around us seems out of control." (p.48)

30. Remember God's Sovereignty

"...a life of godly communication is rooted in a personal recognition of the sovereignty of God." (p.69)

31. Understanding God's Sovereignty

"...when we understand God's sovereignty and submit to his rule, we can live and speak as God has designed." (p.69)

32. Speaking for God's Glory

"God's will is that all of our speaking be done for the praise or glory..." (p.70)

33. Forgive As Christ Has Forgiven Us

"The call to forgive is rooted in the fact that Christ has forgiven us." (p.70)

34. Redemption Realities

"Every command and principle has its roots in redemptive realities--what God has done and will do for us in Christ." (p.70)

35. Our Praise to God Based on Our Determination

"So much of our praise to the Lord is limited to the moments when we have determined that what he has done is good..." (p.74)

36. God Active in Every Moment

"...God is active in every moment of our lives..." (p.74)

37. Where We Are for His Purpose

"...God has us just where we need to be so that his purposes for us and his promises to us may come to pass." (p.74)

38. God's Rule Is Individual

"God's rule is not just global or universal, it is individual." (p.74)

39. God Directs Specific Details

"...God is so glorious in his sovereignty that he directs the specific details of every human life at the same time." (p.74)

40. Worship Begins with Sovereign Grace

"True worship begins as we grasp the sovereign grace of God." (p.75)

41. Salvation Exists on His Will

"Our salvation exists on the rock of His will." (p.75)

42. God Opens Spiritual Eyes

"God opens spiritual eyes that we may see and spiritual ears that we may hear..." (p.75)

43. Our Dependence on God

"...God's sovereign grace undermines all human pride and thoughts of self-sufficiency as we face our complete dependence on him." (p.76)

44. God Honoring Fruit Is Because of His Grace

"If there is any spiritual life, faith, goodness, love, hope, grace, character, wisdom, and God-honoring fruit in our lives, it is because of God's grace." (p.76)

45. Pride Given Over to Praising Him

"...God's goal is that the pride we would otherwise have in ourselves be given over to praising him." (p.76)

46. Worship Always Expressed in Our Words

"...our words always express worship--but not always of God." (p.76)

47. God Completing Work Of Salvation

"...God is at work to complete the work of salvation he began before the earth was made." (p.77)

48. When We Complain, We Grumble in God's Face

"When we complain about the problems and pressures in our lives, we are essentially grumbling in the face of God." (p.77)

49. God Does Not Forget Us

"When we face trouble, trial, and suffering...we should never conclude that God has forgotten us." (p.78)

50. God's Sovereignty over Our Relationships

"Embracing the sovereignty of God over our relationships will alter our words regarding the people he has placed in our lives." (p.81)

51. History = His Story

"History is his story" (p.82)

52. God Has Our Lives

"...God teaches us again and again in Scripture that our lives are in his hands." (p.82)

53. Our Words Should Bring Good

"...our words should bring redemptive good into the lives of the people God has placed around us..." (p.82)

54. The Deceiver Wants Us to Speak Our Own Will

"The Deceiver wants us to claim the world of words as our own, to speak out of our own will, to speak for our own glory, and to speak out of selfish hearts committed only to what seems best for us." (p.82)

55. What Controls Our Hearts Controls Our Words

"Whatever or whoever rules our hearts will control the words we speak." (p.82)

56. Love God, Love Your Neighbor

"Jesus defined human success in terms of two fundamental commitments: to love God above all else and to love your neighbor as yourself..." (p.91)

57. Lies That Lead Us Away from the Creator

"There are no more dangerous lies than the ones that lead us away from a loving hope and surrender to the Creator we cannot see, and toward a bondage to an endless, unsatisfying pursuit of what is passing away." (p.92)

58. Trials Convince Us of the Love of the King

"Trials should not lead us to doubt the love of the King; they should convince us of it." (p.94)

59. Abundant Life Is Christ

"Abundant life is not your spouse, children, house, car, possessions, job, friends, or church. Abundant life is Jesus Christ!" (p.95)

60. Let Go of Personal Dreams

"When we let go of our personal dreams and expectations, we can experience the unity of the Spirit we have been given as the children of God." (p.96)

61. Life Is a Bumpy Pathway

"Life is not a resort, but a bumpy pathway that leads to conformity to Christ." (p.97)

62. God Is Our Refuge

"...God is a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble..." (p.97)

63. God Doesn't Change

"God's goodness, love, power, glory, and call to us do not change in the absence of earthly bread." (p.99)

64. Lost Enthusiasm for His Grace and Mercy

"...many of us, even though we have not physically forsaken the King, have lost our enthusiasm for his grace and mercy because following him has not led to the fulfillment of our dreams." (p.99)

65. Always a Struggle between Our Will and God's

"There is no situation in life without a struggle between our own interests and the Lord's." (p.109)

66. The Sin of Self-interest

"It is always easy to move away from God's purposes toward our own. The shifts between the two can be subtle and deceptive, especially since as believers we are still not free from the sin of self-interest. It remains one of the fundamental heart sins that lie beneath our words." (p.109)

67. Cannot Be an Ambassador with Your Own Interests

"You cannot be a successful ambassador if you are primarily motivated by your own interests!" (p.109)

68. Making the Father Known

"When we live and speak incarnationally, we mirror the work Christ did on earth: he came to make the Father known." (p.110)

69. God's Methods Are Different

"We need to humbly admit that the methods the Lord uses--and calls us to use--are very different from those we would naturally select." (p.114)

70. If Christ Held His Rights, We Would Be Damned

"If Christ had held onto his rights and authority as the Son of God, we would be hopelessly trapped in the bondage of sin, irrevocably destined for damnation." (p.115)

71. The Idol of Self

"...the most powerful idol of all is the idol of self." (p.117)

72. We Want to Be God

"The desire to be God resides in the heart of every sinner." (p.117)

73. Confess Sin or Erect System of Self-justification

"...if your heart has been exposed to truth and you have thought, done, or said what is wrong, you only have two options. You can confess your sin and place yourself once again under the forgiving grace of Christ, or you can erect some system of self-justification that makes what God calls sin acceptable to your conscience." (p.127)

74. We Fight God

"...there is no greater impediment to change than the unwillingness to seek and grant forgiveness. The lack of forgiveness causes us to fight God rather than submit to him and causes us to stand against rather than with one another." (p.128)

75. Sin Has Altered Our Words

"Sin has radically altered our agenda for our words, resulting in much hurt, confusion, and chaos." (p.133)

76. The Bible Shows Us the Way

"The Bible plainly and simply teaches us how to get from where we are to where we are to where God wants us to be." (p.133)

77. Examine Your Communication

"Examine the fruit of your communication and trace that fruit back to root issues in the heart." (p.133)

78. We Would Rather Look at the Faults of Others

"Sinners (and that includes us all) don't tend to be comfortable when their lives are under inspection. We tend to be better at seeing the speck in the eye of our neighbor than we are at seeing the log in our own eye." (p.136)

79. Dread Confrontation

"Yes, we dread confrontation because we don't like to look at our sin, but we also dread confrontation because of the troublesome and unbiblical way we've seen it handled." (p.136)

80. Confrontation Confuses Anger

"Confrontation often confuses personal irritation and anger with biblical perspectives and purposes." (p.136)

81. Incorrect Assumptions

"Poor data gathering can lead to incorrect assumptions about the facts, which derails confrontation." (p.136)

82. Confrontation Marred by Motives

"Confrontation is often marred by a judgement of motives." (p.137)

83. Language, Words, and Tones Mar Confrontation

"Inflammatory language, condemning words, and emotional tones often stain confrontation." (p.137)

84. Show Loving Concern

"Confrontations are often adversarial rather than moments of loving concern for the person who needs your rebuke." (p.137)

85. Scripture Is Used as a Club in Confrontations

"In confrontation, Scripture is often used more as a club than as a mirror of self-awareness and a guide to change." (p.137)

86. Human Expectations

"Confrontation often confuses human expectations with God's will." (p.138)

87. Changes Needs to be a Process

"Confrontation often demands that change be an immediate event rather than a process." (p.138)

88. God Is Working in Us

"Remember, although we have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness, God is still working to remove the darkness within us." (p.146)

89. Those Discouraged in Battle

"As we meet believers discouraged in the battle and blinded by sin, do we give them reason to hold on, to stay confident, and to continue the fight?" (p.153)

90. Responding to God's Plan

"We are not free to handle difficulties in whatever way seems best to us. When we are wronged, the thing of highest importance is not that we feel satisfied or avenged, but that we respond according to God's plan and for his glory." (p.164)