



Sound words produce a steadfastness in Christ. They are the basis for a sound mind. A sound mind is produced by the Word of God working in the heart (II Timothy 1:7, AFor God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind). Sound words are also a basis for sound doctrine (I Timothy 1:10; II Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9). Sound words give a basis for making a Christian sound in the faith (Titus 1:13; 2:2).

The Greek word for sound words means healthful words. God's command to Timothy was to hold fast the form of sound words. This includes words of **pure doctrine**, **pure subject matter**, and **strong convicting power**. Christians should express thoughts by using scriptural language, describing principles in a healthful, biblical context.

Pure Doctrine

Sound words convey pure doctrine (Psalm 12:6,7; 119:140). The Bible never uses the word *pride* constructively. Thankfulness is the Bible's word for what society calls *pride*. The Christian citizen should not be proud of his country but thankful to live in a country with all the bountiful blessings and liberties enjoyed by citizenship in a great land.

Today men and women are filled with pride which is taught at early ages. If an individual does not have enough pride, he is told that he lacks self-esteem, another name the world has given to pride. Christians should not build up themselves with pride which tends to ignore God's blessing and focuses on accomplishments, but rather edify the soul and spirit with thankfulness, giving full gratitude to God for His blessings.

The world teaches a person to say "I'm sorry, or I apologize." God teaches man to admit that he has sinned. Christians should ask for forgiveness and not just be sorry to be caught. An apology is used in defense of a person's actions. Asking for forgiveness shows a realization of being wrong and demonstrates a humble spirit.

The understanding associated with the words used by today's society include present man's values which are ever changing. The Bible's words are filled with the authority of God which never changes. The world uses the word *suicide* for ending a person's life by an act of his will. The word *kill* in Exodus 20:13 means *murder* in the Hebrew language. These words are full of strength. This author has counseled several individuals who have been given victory by the Lord when they faced that what they were really trying to do to themselves was murder a terrible sin against God, as well as themselves and their families. They were challenged concerning the fact, that if they had been successful, they would have had to face God with murder on their record. Individuals are brought under great conviction when they see their sin as God views it, rather than sugar coating it with a modern judicial or psychological term.

Another word lightly used is *affair*. God calls it *adultery* or *fornication*. These strong words instantly bring conviction rather than acceptance. Individuals can better deal with their sin because Christ died for sin. The word *affair* almost implies acceptable behavior.

Pure Subject

The preacher cannot give a pure message using nebulous words. An example is seeking after happiness. The Bible describes the joy of the Lord being the Christian's strength. Satan offers an imitation of the joy of the Lord but it is an elusive state of happiness with no guarantees. God gives instruction concerning how a Christian can experience the joy of the Lord throughout a whole lifetime even when circumstances are not what would necessarily be chosen. (Colossians 3:11; II Corinthians 12:9,10; Nehemiah 8:10).

Convicting Power

Man's words lack convicting power. Man has gradually gone to using less offensive language to the point of renaming biblical terms and truths. Man uses the word *alcoholic*. The Bible uses the word *drunkard*. Using the word *alcoholic* is an attempt to make the condition a disease. Instead of trying to soften the language, the Bible word can be used by the Spirit of God to bring conviction of sin. Sin can be forgiven and conquered. This gives help and hope. An *affair* sounds like something in which one should participate. It is not the strong word *adultery* describing the sordid sin which is the wreck of a union ordained of God. *Fibbing* makes a joke out of *lying*. A *permissive* society is more acceptable sounding than a *wicked* society. Man speaks of *compromise*; God speaks of *disobedience*. Man often refers to his sin, or sins as a problem. Psychology teaches man to *cope* with his problems as he will always have them. God teaches man to identify sin in his life, get rid of it and replace it with righteous actions which will bring glory to God.

Other examples of man's less offensive language instead of God's word are *self-expression* instead of *cursing*; *mischievous* instead of *disobedience*; *abortion* instead of *murder*; *What goes around, comes around*, rather than *Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap*; *exaggeration* instead of *lying*; *introspection* instead of *judging oneself*; *addiction* rather than *besetting sin*, *genetically predisposed* instead of a *sinful nature*; *independent* instead of *rebellious*; *temperamental* instead of *angry*; *dysfunctional* instead of *sinful*; *procrastination* or *unmotivated* instead of *slothful*; *victim* instead of *sinner*; *compulsive* instead of *lustful*; *luck* instead of God's *blessing*; *shoplifting* instead of *stealing*; *therapy* instead of *counsel*; *prejudice* instead of *hatred*; *self-willed* instead of *stubborn*, and on the list goes.

The Christian needs to use sound biblical words, that he might have a sound mind, have sound doctrine, and be sound in the faith. He needs God's authority in all that is said by using pure words, powerful words, and words which are have complete truth.

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II Timothy 1:13, Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

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