

Introduction: How do we experience social restoration?

Phase 1:

Social Distinction

Social restoration begins when followers of Jesus embrace there are no social distinctions.

Phase 2:

Social Action

Social restoration demands that followers of Jesus put their faith into social action.

Phase 3:

Social _____

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

James 3:1-2

Command: Watch your _____

Definition:

Words – “A communication where by the mind finds expression.”

How do you watch your words?

Before you speak, stop and think:

- Is it _____?
- Is it _____?
- Is it _____?
- Have I truly _____?

Why are you to be so careful with what you say?

- Your words have _____ force. James 3:3-4
- Your words have _____ power. James 3:5-6
- Your words are very _____ to control. James 3:7-8

What do you do?

- Repent for the _____ of your words. James 3:9-10
- Go to the _____ to address the _____ . James 3:11-12

⁴³ For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Luke 6:43-45

Social restoration requires followers of Jesus to do the heart work to bring about redemptive social language.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are your words so important and what do your words reveal about who you really are?
2. Before you speak you should stop and think, “is it true?”, “is it helpful?”, “is it kind?”, and “have I truly listened?” Think of a time when you spoke before thinking. What was the outcome and how could it have been different had you stopped to ask these questions?
3. Do you need to repent for the incongruity of your words? Take a moment to ask the Lord for forgiveness and strength to control your words.
4. How will you specifically do the heart work to bring about redemptive social language?