Series: Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins we Tolerate
Session 6: The Tongue & Worldliness

The Tongue

Matt 12:36-37 – “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

James 3:5-6 – “See how great a forest is set afame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.”

Eph 4:29 – “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Gossip – the spreading of unfavorable information about someone else, even if that information is true.

If what I am about to say does not pass those tests, I will keep my mouth shut!

Slander – making a false statement or misrepresentation about another person that defames or damages the person’s reputation.

Lying – When we knowingly exaggerate, misrepresent or fail to tell the whole truth.

Critical Speech – negative comments about someone that may be actually true but just doesn’t need to be said.

Matt 12:34 – “You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”

Ps 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”

Worldliness

1 John 2:15-16 – “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

An initial Definition of Worldliness: Being attached to, engrossed in, or preoccupied with the things of this temporal life.
A second Definition of Worldliness: Accepting the values, mores, and practices of the nice, but unbelieving, society around us without discerning whether or not those values, mores, and practices are biblical.

Money –

Deut 8:17-18 – “Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

Matt 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

2 Cor 8:9 – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Immorality –

Matt 5:28 – “but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

1 Tim 2:9-10 - “Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.”

Rom 6:21 – “Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.”

Application

1. Apply the Gospel
2. Depend on the Holy Spirit
3. Recognize your responsibility
4. Identify specific respectable sins
5. Memorize and apply appropriate Scriptures
   - The Tongue - Ephesians 4:29
   - Money – Matthew 6:33 or 2 Corinthians 8:9,
   - Immorality – Proverbs 27:20 or Romans 6:21
6. Cultivate the practice of prayer
7. Involve one or more believers with you