

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon

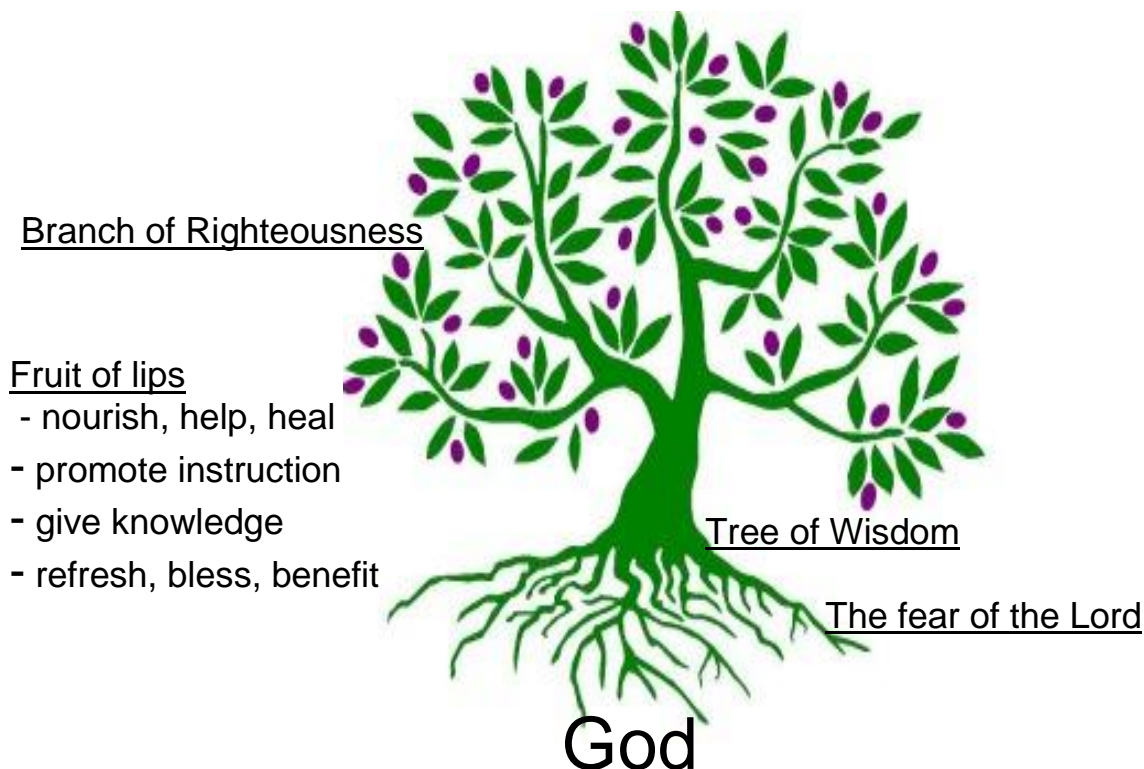
(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

Wisdom on Communication – January 20, 2013

I. **Getting to know you** (Questions for Group Discussion):

- a. What is your favorite restaurant? What is your favorite food to eat?
- b. What is your favorite and least favorite form of exercise?
- c. When driving, are you more likely to listen to music, talk radio, your thoughts, your phone, or nothing at all?

II. **Getting into the Bible / Points from Sunday's Message:**



a. Some Key Verses from Proverbs:

- i. 3:18a *Wisdom is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;*
- ii. 15:4a *A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*
- iii. 12:3b *The righteous cannot be uprooted.*
- iv. 10:21a *The lips of the righteous nourish many.*
- v. 12:18 *The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- vi. 16:24 *Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*
- vii. 28:26 *Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.*

b. Key Sermon Points:

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Titus 3:1-11 ***Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.***

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. If gossip and slander focus on someone else entirely, how can they be vehicles to promote self?
- b. Gossips often fail to keep secrets (11:13; 20:19). How much do you value the principle of confidentiality in your relationships? Under what circumstances are you tempted to betray confidences and rationalize it?
- c. How does slander negatively affect (1) the speaker, (2) the listener, and (3) the subject?
- d. According to Titus 3, what should replace gossip and slander as we live in the truth of the gospel?
- e. What's the best way to deal with a gossipy secret, or an outright slanderous message?