

May 24, 2026  
Paul Gotthardt  
(#6 in series)

# GOOD FENCES

✧ A BOUNDARY SERIES ✧

Speech Boundaries  
Ephesians 4:29 and various passages

**Truth 1:** We cannot consistently \_\_\_\_\_ grace until we've  
\_\_\_\_\_ grace.

**Truth 2:** Our words are not morally \_\_\_\_\_; they  
either lead towards \_\_\_\_\_ or edification.

### Paul contrasts two types of words:

----- Words	----- Words
Rotten (spoiled fruit; rotten fish)	Edifying (helping others grow)
Foul, decaying, useless	Pleasant, uplifting, helpful
Hurt the hearer	Heal the hearer
Are like poison	Are like medicine
We should never use them	We should always use them
Part of the old self	Part of the new self

**Truth 3:** Our words should be \_\_\_\_\_, appropriate and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Three diagnostic questions before we speak:

1. Is what I'm about to say \_\_\_\_\_? (Zechariah 8:16; Ephesians 4:25)
2. Is it \_\_\_\_\_ and edifying for this person and in this \_\_\_\_\_? (Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 15:1)
3. Will my words \_\_\_\_\_ or please the Spirit who dwells in me? (Ephesians 4:30; Colossians 4:6)

If "no" to any of these, Scripture would urge either silence or a different way of saying it.



**Response/Reflection:** Prayerfully reflect upon the following questions.

- What are my words revealing about my heart?
- Where has unwholesome speech become a part of my life?
- Do other people share gossip, slander and unwholesome talk with me? If so, why do they feel comfortable doing that?
- How would my life, my marriage, my family and my church be different if I ONLY used wholesome words?
- Do my words give grace or leave rubble?



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