

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

P.O. Box 211

Crossville, TN 38557

Phone

484-5297 or 484-2960

Fax 707-0025

Bible Call

707-5523 or 707-5532

COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Email: mainstchurch@volfirst.net

crossville_elders@volfirst.net



Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Kyle Fairman

Jimmy Harris

David Kerley

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Jon Tatum

Jason Wyatt

Jerry Wood

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study 9 AM

Sunday Worship 10 AM

6 PM

Wednesday 6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM

February 19, 2012



**“ I will sing of the mercies of the
LORD for ever: with my mouth will
I make known thy faithfulness to all
generations” (Psalm 89:1).**

THE STRANGER

Author Unknown

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger... He was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home - not from us, our friends or any visitors. After our long time visitor stayed longer he became more daring however, and even got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

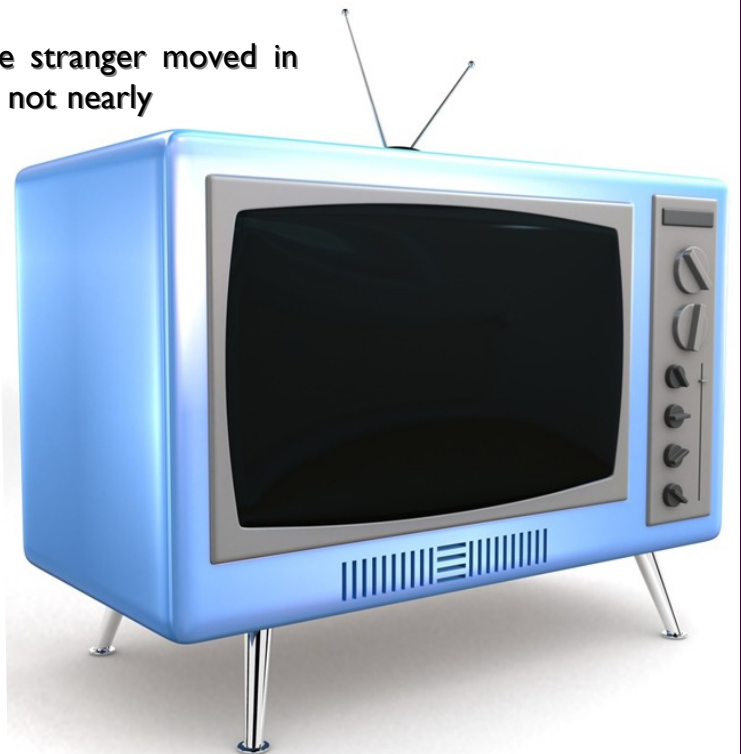
I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?.... We just call him 'TV.' He has a wife now....we call her 'Computer.' Their first child is named "Cell Phone" and their second child is named "I Pod."

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me"

(Psalm 101:3).



THE IMPORTANCE OF WORDS

Bill Watkins

"And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (Matthew 12:36,37).

In light of this statement of Jesus, it is apparent that the significance of words can hardly be overstressed. Words not only convey meaning but also play a part in determining our eternal destiny.

Then let us give much thought to insure that our words are *"fitly spoken."* (Proverbs 25:11).

First of all, it behooves us to speak words that are healthy. Paul's admonition to Titus was, *"speak thou the things which befit sound doctrine."* (Titus 2:1).

The words "sound" mean more than accurate. It conveys the idea of healthy or health-giving. So many detrimental and hurtful things are said in our world. Why not spend your time in spreading abroad healthy, life-giving words.

Secondly, we would do well to speak gracious and graceful words. *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one."* (Colossians 4:6).

We sometimes seem to pride ourselves in gruffness and seek to justify it by the claim that we are staunch defenders of the faith. Why not just admit that such a spirit is really, basically unloving and unkind, and then, by practice and empathy, develop words and expressions of refinement and elegance.

Let our words be filled with love, so that we may grow spiritually. *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Christ."* (Ephesians 4:15).

Finally, and above all, speak the words of the good news. *"But even as we have been approved of God to be intrusted with the gospel, so we speak."* (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

More than anything else, men need to hear the good news from God. Be absolutely certain, then that through ourselves, they will not be robbed of the opportunity to hear it.

"If any stumbleth not in the word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also." (James 3:2).

○ BE CAREFUL LITTLE MOUTH WHAT YOU SAY

Barry Kennedy

Kondraty Ryleyev was sentenced to be hanged for his part in an unsuccessful uprising against the Russian czar Nicholas I in December 1825. But the rope broke and Ryleyev, bruised and battered, fell to the ground, got up, and said, "In Russia they do not know how to do anything properly, not even how to make a rope." An accident of this sort usually resulted in a pardon, so a messenger was sent to the czar to know his pleasure. Nicholas asked, "What did he say?"

"Sire, he said that in Russia they do not even know how to make a rope properly."
"Well, let the contrary be proved," said the czar.¹

The Bible offers great instruction pertaining to how we should use words. Solomon wrote, *"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards"* (Proverbs 29:11). Jesus emphasized the importance of choosing our words carefully. *"I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned"* (Matthew 12:36-37). How careful are we?

¹<http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/s/speech.htm>