

PASTOR'S PATCH



WORDS HAVE POWER – THEY MATTER

Did you know that deaths through smoking have nothing whatsoever to do with tobacco, but to do solely with your genes? You could smoke 40 a day and never get cancer, or not smoke at all and get cancer. When told to a men's group they were astonished. Two of them even started smoking!

Words have power, even words which are not true. We read and hear so many statements on the news and in social media, or in discussions with people, which are so easily spoken but may not be true, at least not 100% true. Like saying the likelihood of contracting cancer has nothing to do with smoking!!

The words we use, the words we write (especially quickly in emails and text messages), have power. People can be lifted high out of their despair, or their enthusiastic positivity dashed to dust, by a few simple words, maybe just one.

1 Peter 4:11 says, *"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God"*. Peter was talking about living a life for God, having the same mindset as Jesus Christ, as ones who will have to give account to Him for the ways we have spoken and acted.

Let us be thoughtful therefore of the words we use, whether they be spoken or written. I confess I fail from time to time and must ask forgiveness when I do. *"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."* (James 3:9-10)

Colin Opie