

## Sermon Questions: Words of Affirmation

Proverbs 18:21

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

1. Can you share a time when someone said something to you that made you feel positive? Can you share a time when someone said something to you that made you feel negative?
2. There is an old expression, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." Why is that untrue?
3. The ancient Hebrews believed that words not only communicate meaning, they transmit energy. Positive, hopeful words transmit positive energy. Negative, hurtful words transmit negative energy. Do you think there is truth to this?
4. Learning to love well involves developing the skill of using words to express love. Read Proverbs 18:21. How does the tongue produce life or death?
5. Pastor Mark suggests that expressing gratitude is an important way of demonstrating love. How does gratitude communicate love to others?
6. Can you recall a time when someone said "Thank you" to you for something? In what way was that important to you?
7. Pastor Mark suggests that it is very important for parents to teach children to express gratitude. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
8. How is worship an important way of expressing gratitude to God?
9. Do you think many people are in need of encouragement these days? Why or why not?
10. Pastor Mark mentions the 5-to-1 ratio (encourage people five times for every one time of correction or criticism). Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
11. Read Colossians 4:6. Why is it important to express our opinions with grace?
12. Why do you think this political season is so contentious? What can we do to remain politically informed and active without being angry and harsh?