

## WORD POWER - ACID OR GLUE

**A word fitly spoken →→→**  
(Proverbs 25:11 NKJV)

**Warm fellowship**  
(Acts 4:32 TLB)

- Appropriate for the situation
- Well- matched to the time
- Effective speech that applies power for success
- A good choice of words

**By your words you will be justified.**  
**By your words you will be condemned.**  
(Matthew 12:33-37 NKJV)

**The quality of our relationships depends on our ability to communicate!**

### A STUDY ABOUT WORDS, taken from 1 CORINTHIANS 1 & 2

Two Choices: **ACID WORDS... GLUE WORDS**

**The Problem: Strife and Envy in the Corinthian Church**

*(1 Corinthians 3:3, 4 NKJV) "for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? {4} For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?"*

**The Root Cause of the Problem: NEGATIVE WORD POWER**

**NEGATIVE WORD POWER**



- Envy
- Strife
- Divisions

We shall see how words can either disrupt or destroy, or strengthen and bond people together as a group. We will look at four categories of words from the first two chapters of Corinthians.

**These are:**

**I. Divisive Words**

**II. Contentious Words**

**III. Persuasive Words**

**IV. Christ Words**

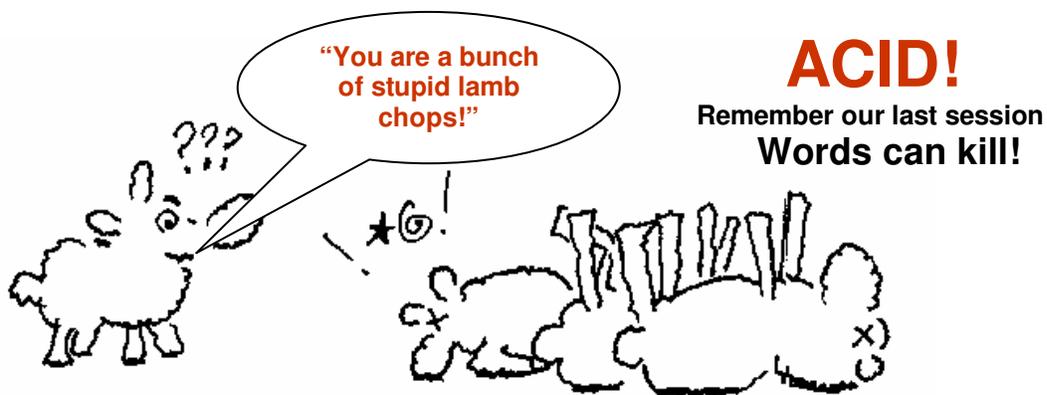
## I. DIVISIVE WORDS (ACID!)

*(1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV) "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."*

### Divisive Words are Killing Words

(They are empty, dark and defiling.)

**They rip apart what God has put together.** In Christ, we have been recreated to speak the same thing...to be perfectly joined together. The words "perfectly joined" mean, "unified in our maturity." This concept holds true for friendships, marriages, families, cell groups, ministries, churches and any other gathering of Christians. Following our faith, at every level, reflects the results of people being "imperfectly joined" or "divided in our immaturity."



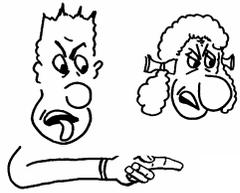
**Acid is a corrosive mix. It burns, as it eats away whatever it comes in contact with.**

**Divisive words are acid that eats away at people until the words kill the relationship, the spirit, and in some cases, even the flesh!**

### Biblical Instruction for two or more Christians

1. Speak the same thing.
2. Let there no divisions among us. (No divisive words!)
3. Be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. (Apply God's word to our lives in communion with each other. Let Christ alone rule our thinking.)

## II. CONTENTIOUS WORDS (ACID!)



Contentious words are argumentative noises that come from immature people.

Contentious words reflect hardness of heart and selfish, evil intentions.

(Remember these two?) 

### Characteristics of Contentious Words...

- They take sides.
- They reveal prideful thinking that only you, or your group, are right.
- They reveal you value winning the argument above displaying gentleness, kindness, peacemaking, self-control etc. (Galatians 5: 22 & 23 – The Fruit of the Spirit!)  
(The Greek word for “contentious words, or “contentions” is “eris” which is listed among the lusts of the flesh in Galatians 5:19 & 20.)

The sign of a mature, Christ-like person is that he or she values people above winning an argument (being proven right for the sake of pride).

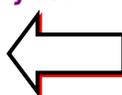
**L**  **K** at Paul’s fears for the Corinthian Church, as he later writes his second letter, in anticipation of visiting them.

*(2 Corinthians 12:20 NKJV) “For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;”*

**L**  **K** at Paul’s solution for the Corinthian Church, which would eliminate contentious words (ACID words).

*(1 Corinthians 1:26, 30-31 NLT) “Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you... {30} God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom. {31} As the Scriptures say, “The person who wishes to boast should boast only of what the Lord has done.””*

**Paraphrased –  
Stop dripping  
ACID WORDS  
from your lips!**



### III. PERSUASIVE WORDS (ACID!)

(Prideful words, filled with high sounding speech and human wisdom)

*(1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV) "And I, brethren, when I came to you, **did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. {2} For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. {3} I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. {4} And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom,***

*but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, {5} that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*

*(GOD'S WORD TRANSLATION – Verses 4 & 5) "I didn't speak my message with persuasive intellectual arguments. I spoke my message with a show of spiritual power so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on God's power."*

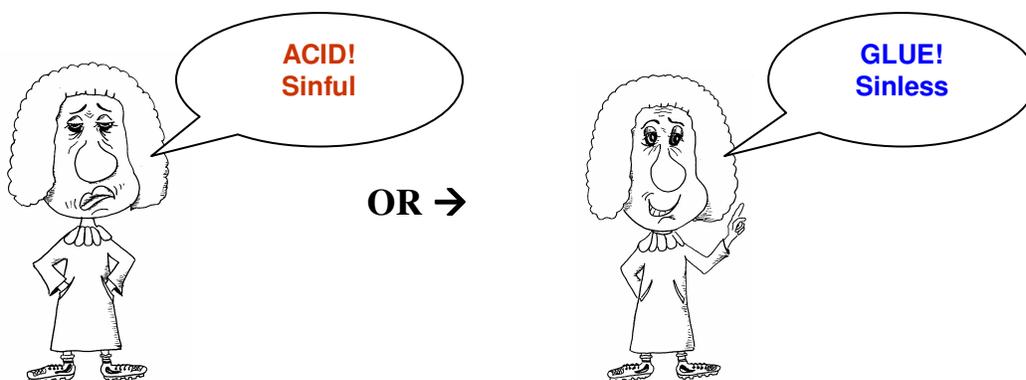


**Paraphrased – Start speaking GLUE WORDS from your lips – words that show the power of God in your life!**

**L**  **K** again at Paul's solution. Stop speaking **ACID WORDS**. Start speaking **GLUE WORDS**.

Paul says, "Stop speaking divisive, contentious, malicious, self-serving, sinful words. Start speaking healing, encouraging words, full of spiritual power!"

 **What kind of words leaves your mouth?**



**Think about it!**

## IV. CHRIST WORDS (GLUE!)

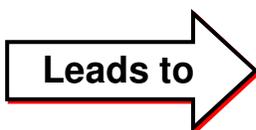
Christ words always take you “Christ-wards.” They draw you closer to God. They are life-giving, compassionate, caring Words.

*(1 Corinthians 2:12-16 GWT) “Now, we didn’t receive the spirit that belongs to the world. Instead, we received the Spirit who comes from God so that we could know the things which God has freely given us. {13} We don’t speak about these things using teachings that are based on intellectual arguments like people do. Instead, we use the Spirit’s teachings. We explain spiritual things to those who have the Spirit. {14} A person who isn’t spiritual doesn’t accept the teachings of God’s Spirit. He thinks they’re nonsense. He can’t understand them because a person must be spiritual to evaluate them. {15} Spiritual people evaluate everything but are subject to no one’s evaluation. {16} “Who has known the mind of the Lord so that he can teach him?” However, we have the mind of Christ.”*

*(Romans 12:2 NKJV) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

## CONCLUSION

# POSITIVE, SPIRIT LED WORD POWER



God’s people being joined together in mature Christian thinking and unity. Let’s look again at Paul’s words to the Corinthian church.

*(1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV) “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*



“United in thought and purpose”  
(New Living Translation)

<b>WORKSHEET: WORDS – ACID OR GLUE?</b>		
<b>Study: The problem the Apostle Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 1:10 – 2:16</b>		
<b>Fill in the blanks.</b> ↓		
<b>1 Corinthians 1</b>	<b>Subject of the Verse</b>	<b>Effects on People</b>
<b>Verse 10</b>	<b>Divisive words</b>  Perfectly joined Same mind Same judgment	<b>ACID - Negative Word Power</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kill fellowship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Destroy unity in the body <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Verse 11</b>	<b>Contentious words</b>	
<b>Verses 12-17</b>	<b>Following a person, not Christ and His words</b>	
<b>Verses 18-25</b>	<b>Gospel words</b> <b>Power words</b>  <b>Wisdom of the wise</b>  <b>Wisdom of God</b>	
<b>1 Corinthians 2</b>	<b>Subject of the Verse</b>	<b>Effects on People</b>
<b>Verse 1</b>	<b>Excellence of speech</b> <b>Excellence of wisdom</b>	
<b>Verses 2-5</b>	<b>Persuasive words of human wisdom</b>  <b>Demonstration of the Spirit and Power</b>	
<b>Verses 6-7</b>	<b>Wisdom of God</b>	
<b>Verses 8-13</b>	<b>Spiritual words</b>	
<b>Verse 16</b>	<b>Christ-thinking and Christ-words</b>	

← Fill in the blanks

In the next lesson: The Power of Speaking the Truth in Love