

Are We?
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“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

What a terrible lie we tell.

To some extent, I get it. We say this to kids to help them develop thick skin. Kids, of course, can be brutal to one another without understanding the depth of pain their words can cause. And knowing this, we try to build up our children to be resilient in the face of pain.

But words do things. Words do glorious things. With simple Words combined with God’s command, we are forgiven. With simple Words and God’s name, we are brought into His family. And with the simple Words of Christ, bread becomes Body and wine becomes Blood, given and shed for you. Words do indeed do glorious things.

But words also do all sorts of evil as well. We know the phrases that can kill. A relative tells you they hate you. A friend calls you worthless. A contrite heart begs for forgiveness, and yet none is given. Words can and do hurt me.

James goes so far as to say: For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:7-8

Words will never hurt me. . . . we lie to ourselves if we think this is true.

But remember, Words do glorious things. Words from God speak life into our bones. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. 1 John 3:1

Words do glorious things. God uses Words in ways that give life. He calls us His children, and so we are.

Are we? In a world that throws evil words at us, in a world of hate and despise and unforgiveness, how is it that we can be children of God?

Because of Words. God-spoken, life-giving Words make us children of God. When you were baptized, God used His Words, and when you hear forgiveness spoken, they are holy Words. And when Christ’s body and blood touch your lips, it is only because He gave the Words to bring such holy things to you.

Sticks and stones do break bones, words certainly can hurt me. But with Jesus, there is only life, abundant life from His holy and precious Words. He calls us His children, and so we are.