

## Devotional Example

### Trash Talking

#### Key Point

### Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)

#### Scripture and Version of Bible

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Every Sunday we see NFL players, especially defensive players, taunting and trash talking the opposition. Some of these exchanges are funny, some are filthy and all are intended to have the opposing player lose focus. The goal of most trash talking is to have the opponent lose his temper, lose his concentration on his assignment, or worse yet, focus completely on getting back at the trash talker.

Around the year 2000, Ray Slagle, the former head basketball coach at Worthington Christian High School who later became the very successful coach at Cedarville University in Ohio, gave a talk in which he discussed trash talking. He said trash talking is always wrong; it is always unwholesome words.

If you are trash talking another believer in Christ, you are not following Christ’s command to “love one another”. If you are trash talking a person who doesn’t know Christ yet, imagine what kind of example you are to him of a Christian witness. Words do matter! Jesus made this chilling proclamation in Matthew 12:36-37. “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Our players should play hard, tough, relentless and by the rules. Not just the rules of the game but the rules of the “real game”, the game of life.

### Questions

1. How do you feel about trash talking?
2. Is it just a part of the game and doesn’t mean anything?
3. Is trash talking ever justified?