



***War of Words* by Paul David Tripp**

Reviewed by Charles Sigler, D.Phil.

War of Words is not a Christianized book about communication problems and techniques. Paul Trip regularly guides the reader to an examination of their heart: “Battles of the tongue are really battles of the heart. What controls the heart will control the tongue.” Building on the same biblical concepts found in *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, Tripp vividly portrays how our struggles with words are played out in the larger battle for our hearts; and then he points us to God’s plan for our talk. He convincingly demonstrates how this war of words is only won when God rules our hearts.

Readers acquainted with the “Changing Hearts, Changing Lives” video series will find several familiar sections, including the exposition of Genesis 3:1-13 and the four step process of repentance as: Consideration, Confession, Commitment and Change. *War of Words* and *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands* flesh out the concepts presented in “Changing Hearts, Changing Lives.” Combined, they would make an excellent extended study of the concepts presented in the series.

In each chapter of *War of Words* he takes the reader through God’s plan, our sin, his grace, and Scripture’s map for this war of words. Drawing from personal experience as well as counseling situations, Paul illustrates the struggle we all face in controlling our tongue. You are left with no illusion that he is above the struggle. He comes alongside the reader as a fellow traveller, a brother in Christ who shares his own experiences in this struggle.

Tripp organized his discussion around the following four basic principles:

- God has a wonderful plan for our words that is far better than any plans we could come up with on our own.

- Sin has radically altered our agenda for our words, resulting in much hurt, confusion, and chaos.
- In Christ Jesus we find the grace that provides all we need to speak as God intended us to speak.
- The Bible plainly and simply teaches us how to get from where we are to where God wants us to be.

His hope for his readers is ultimately redemptive; that as God's ambassadors we would communicate His appeal to a world enslaved to self:

May God help us, so that this world of evil will be transformed into a world of redemptive good. May he win the war for our hearts so that the battleground of words becomes a garden of good fruit, where the seeds of peace produce a lasting harvest of righteousness (James 3:18).