Speak out of love

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"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." – 1 Corinthians 13:1

As a father of three young boys I cannot help but think about how my boys seem to be the loudest at the most inconvenient moments in my life. It seems like whenever my wife and I decide to have a short conversation, or while I am relaxing drinking coffee in the morning, or even trying to make a simple phone call, I often get interrupted by some sort of loud sound echoing in the background.

It is not like they are trying to do it on purpose, it is just what comes out of boys who are full of energy and have nothing better to do then to find something and make a really loud and obnoxious sound with it.

When I think about this passage from 1 Corinthians and how Paul describes our speech as a resounding gong if it is not spoken in love, I cannot help but picture that my speech sounds just like those loud noises my boys are making in the background.

If you read the next couple of verses that follow, Paul goes on to point out that whatever action we do, if it is not done in love, it is useless. When I think about the words I say and how I say them I do not want them to be a loud and obnoxious background sound.

I am not trying to be cheesy and say that I want my words to sound like a beautiful love song. But I do want and desire that the words that come out of my mouth be meaningful and out of love.

For me to keep my words from sounding like this, I must first check my heart. Jesus says that, "the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean'." (Matthew 15:18)

Jesus goes straight to the source of describing where our words come from. If we find our self making loud background noise on a daily basis we must take a close look at our heart. Because Jesus' desire is that what we say reflects who we are in love with!