

Part 1

Words and Actions

*Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not be.
(James 3:10)*

“What’s the matter with you?” “I told you to take the trash out.” “Why didn’t you do it?” “You lazy bum! “You can’t do anything right!” One father who is loud, angry, and derogatory can frighten, anger, and embitter his child. Another father can make his son feel loved, accepted, supported, and good when he is gentle and encouraging with his words. “Hi son, how did your day go?” “Did everything go well at the track meet?” “I was thinking about you today.” “I prayed for you.” “By the way, please remember to take out the trash when the bag is full.” “I appreciate it.” You can see the son from the angry, belittling father, just shrink and fall back when his father blasts him about the trash. He will internalize his father’s words and do two things. The boy will begin to resent his father and he will eventually believe he is lazy and “good for nothing.” In fact, he may go out of his way to prove it by repeating the pattern of irresponsibility and underachievement in everything he is asked to do. He sabotages himself to get back at dad.