

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 12:17-28

Our tongue often gets us into trouble – James 3:2-8

The titles of the individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Speak with an Honest Tongue – 17

Our need to speak the truth is rooted in God’s character

“Deceit” – in contrast to God’s attitude about telling the truth but in line with Satan’s deceitfulness – Revelation 12:9

2. Speak with a Kind Tongue – 18

“Healing” – helps, edifies, etc. – Ephesians 4:29

3. Speak Words of Eternity – 19

“Endure forever” – you never have to take them back

“Moment” – in the wink of an eye – lies have no permanent value

4. Joyfully Rest in the Truth, Delighting in God – 20-22

“Evil” – not just referring to moral, ethical evil – but it also carries idea of physical pain & suffering

“Plan peace” – Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”

The greatest peace we can have a role in is the peace between God and a sinner

We are also to be a peace maker by resolving conflict we have with others

Important steps (adapted from CFC New Members Class material):

- Get the log out of your eye – Matthew 7:5
- Consider overlooking the offense – 1 Peter 4:8
- Talk with the other person in private for the purpose of resolving the conflict – Matthew 18:15
- Confess to the other person any ways you have sinned against them or contributed to the conflict. Seek their forgiveness – James 5:16
- Lovingly communicate your concern about what the other person has done – Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1; Colossians 3:12-13
- If the conflict is not resolved, seek help from mature believers as appropriate – Matt. 18:16-17
- Praise God for the good that has come from the conflict. Seek to grow in areas of immaturity that were exposed.

“No ill” – calamity, misfortune. In this context, it’s speaking of a calamity that is the product of sins of the tongue.

“Trouble” – ungodly and unwise speech makes life harder for this person.

Illustration: Ananias & Sapphira – Acts 4:32, 5:1-11

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“Faithfully” – Hebrew word is the same as “truth” in v. 17.

One of the characteristics of God – Psalm 36:5; 40:10; Lamentations 3:23 and it is characteristic of what God does – Psalm 33:4

Because God is this way, He expects that those who follow Him will take on the same characteristic – 2 Chronicles 19:9

5. Speak with Discernment – 23

“Conceals knowledge” – he restrains his words until the timing is right

Illustration: Joseph when his brothers came into his presence

Esther in the court of king – Esther 2:10

Jesus told His disciples to tell no one Who He was until the time was right – Matt 16:20

“Proclaims folly” – John Kitchen: “Generally, the more likely one is to speak, the less likely it is to be worth much. And conversely, the less likely one is to speak, the more likely it is to be worth hearing when he does”

James 1:19

6. Remember Diligence Will Bring Reward But Laziness Won't – 24

“Forced labor” – illustration: the wise and faithful servant in Matthew 24:45-51

7. Speak Comforting Words – 25

“Good word” – encouraging words, kind words, insightful words

8. Beware of Being Misled by Wicked Friends – 26

“Guide” – the Hebrew word can be understood as either “investigates” or “guides”

If “investigates” is correct, then it is saying a righteous person is one who cautiously moves into new relationships.

This is a better contrast with the 2nd line than translating it “guides”

9. Conserve God's Precious Resources – 27

The lazy person may start his projects, but never finish them. He's full of good plans but short on follow through.

10. Walk in Christ, Your Pathway of Righteousness – 28